

Virtual Fighting Champions

Esports Companion App

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01

About the project

Virtual Fighting Champions

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The logo for Virtual Fighting Champions (VFC) is displayed within a rectangular frame with an orange border. The text "VIRTUAL FIGHTING CHAMPIONS" is centered horizontally. "VIRTUAL" and "CHAMPIONS" are in white, while "FIGHTING" is in red. The background of the frame is dark and features a close-up, diagonal view of a heavy metal chain. The entire slide has a purple background with stylized, jagged white and orange shapes on the left and right sides.

VIRTUAL FIGHTING CHAMPIONS

What is it?

Virtual Fighting Champions (VFC) is an esports companion app that engages users with esports events by allowing the buying, selling, and exchanging of VFC cards representing real esports players.



02

The Set Up

Let's get started!

The Building Blocks



AWS IAM

Utilized for managing access permissions to DynamoDB data, Lambda functions, and any other resources.



AWS EC2

A server used to host our API endpoints, as well as the front end to our application.



AWS VPC

Controls traffic to our resources and protects them from unauthorized access.



Configuration: **AWS IAM**

- When starting a project with multiple collaborators, **IAM** is usually the first resource that comes to mind.
- Here, the team has been given access to only the resources they needed for the duration of the project, enforcing the **principle of least privilege**.

* The majority of work was a group effort, and so all members typically had the same level of access.*

```
{
  "Version": "2012-10-17",
  "Statement": [
    {
      "Sid": "Statement1",
      "Effect": "Allow",
      "Action": [
        "lambda:*",
        "dynamodb:*",
        "cloudwatch:*",
        "ec2:*",
        "iam:*",
        "rds:*",
        "events:*",
        "application-autoscaling:*",
        "s3:*",
        "access-analyzer:*"
      ],
      "Resource": [
        "*"
      ]
    }
  ]
}
```

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Configuration: **AWS EC2**

```
[Unit]
Description=Gunicorn instance for our app
After=network.target

[Service]
User=ubuntu
Group=www-data
WorkingDirectory=/home/ubuntu/Baseball-Cards
ExecStart=gunicorn -b 0.0.0.0:8000 app:app
Restart=always

[Install]
WantedBy=multi-user.target
```

```
# Default server configuration
#
upstream flaskbaseballcards {
    server 127.0.0.1:8000;
}

server {
    listen 80 default_server;
    listen [::]:80 default_server;
```

Because **Flask** developmental servers are non-persisting, we used **Gunicorn** and **nginx** to host our API endpoints and make them resistant to outages.

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Configuration: AWS EC2 contd.

```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-95-114:~/Baseball-Cards/client$ pm2 start baseball-cards
[PM2] Applying action restartProcessId on app [baseball-cards](ids: [ 0 ])
[PM2] [baseball-cards](0) ✓
[PM2] Process successfully started
```

id	name	mode	□	status	cpu	memory
0	baseball-cards	fork	2	online	0%	11.8mb

Next, we used **pm2** to create a service to start and run our **React** frontend whenever the **EC2** is booted up in order to ensure that our application is resistant to outages.



Configuration: **AWS VPC**

- When setting up our server, it is important to ensure devs and users have access to the necessary ports. This can be done using our **VPC** and **Security Groups**. Some are for development, while others are for user traffic. Here are some examples:

- **5000**: API Endpoints
- **3000**: Front End App
- **3306**: MySQL Database
- **80**: Requests to API

Security group rule ID	Port range	Protocol
sgr-006ec92f25346542f	5000	TCP
sgr-025e13e91da101b11	22	TCP
sgr-089e5465a130e9768	443	TCP
sgr-040a95b7937f1ff78	3000	TCP
sgr-092d82c39cf4117cb	8080	TCP
sgr-06f19491b5844e8f6	80	TCP
sgr-0d0d7dbfcac0ab994	3306	TCP

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03

Data Collection and Storage

Data Collection and Storage



AWS RDS

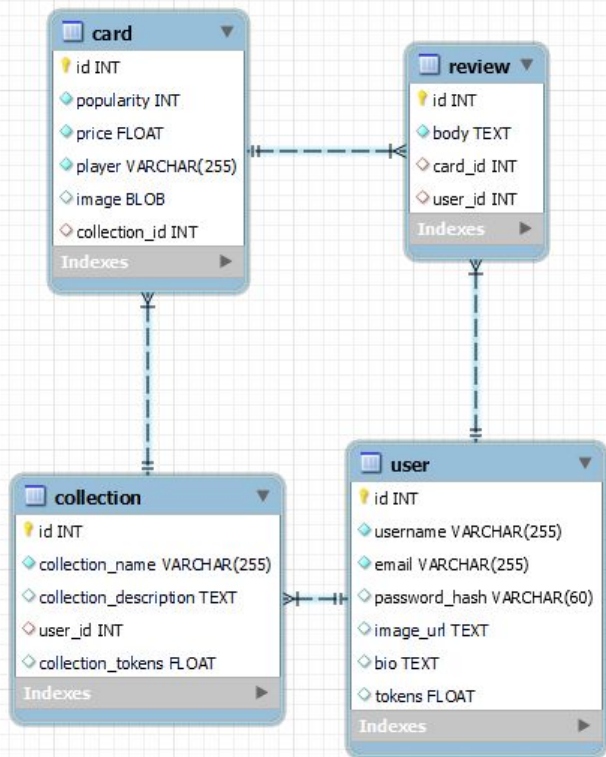
- Stores data directly related to the application (i.e user data, card data, reviews, etc.)
- Used SQLAlchemy to create the schema and update the database programmatically.



AWS DynamoDB

- For analytics, we used AWS DynamoDB.
- Stores metadata to track usage of our application.





The Schema

Nothing new here! Just an ER diagram to provide a better look at our schema.

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Name ▲	Status	Partition key
Card_Statistics	✓ Active	id (N)
Collection_statistics	✓ Active	id (N)
Trade_Statistics	✓ Active	id (N)
User_Statistics	✓ Active	id (N)

DynamoDB Tables

As our application grows, metadata is stored in these tables for future CloudWatch analysis.

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04

Data Processing

With AWS Lambda!

Configuration: **AWS Lambda**

Logging

Import logger onto the Lambda function to track functionality.



Validation

Ensure that all fields are present and valid.



Formatting

Ensure that data is in the correct format for analytics.



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Transfer

Send query results to DynamoDB tables.



Validation

```
def transform_card_data(row):
    #ensures data is in the correct format for analytics
    card_id, popularity, price, player = row
    return {
        'id': int(card_id),
        'popularity': int(popularity),
        'price': Decimal(str(round(float(price), 2))),
        'player': str(player)
    }

def transform_user_data(cursor):
    query = """
    SELECT cu.user_id, cu.user_name, COUNT(r.review_id) AS total_reviews, AVG(r.rating) AS average_rating
    FROM card_user cu
    LEFT JOIN reviews r ON cu.user_id = r.reviewee_id
    GROUP BY cu.user_id, cu.user_name;
    """
    cursor.execute(query)
    rows = cursor.fetchall()
    return [
        {
            'id': row[0],
            'user_name': row[1],
            'total_reviews': int(row[2]),
            'average_rating': Decimal(str(row[3])) if row[3] is not None else None # Handle None case if no reviews
        } for row in rows
    ]

def transform_collection_data(cursor):
    query = """
    SELECT
        c.collection_id,
        c.user_id,
        cu.user_name,
        COALESCE(SUM(ca.price), 0) AS total_price,
        COALESCE(AVG(ca.popularity), 0) AS avg_popularity
    FROM collection c
    JOIN card_user cu ON c.user_id = cu.user_id
    JOIN card_item ca ON c.collection_id = cu.collection_id
    GROUP BY c.collection_id, cu.user_name;
    """
    cursor.execute(query)
    rows = cursor.fetchall()
    return [
        {
            'collection_id': row[0],
            'user_id': row[1],
            'user_name': row[2],
            'total_price': Decimal(str(row[3])),
            'avg_popularity': Decimal(str(row[4])) if row[4] is not None else None
        } for row in rows
    ]
```

Transfer

```
def lambda_handler(event, context):
    # TODO Implement

    #dynamodb setup
    dynamodb = boto3.resource('dynamodb')
    dynamo_table = dynamodb.Table('Card_Statistics')
    users_table = dynamodb.Table('User_Statistics')
    collection_table = dynamodb.Table('Collection_statistics')

    #Connect to the RDS database
    cnx = mysql.connector.connect(
        host='baseball-card-backend-db.c98ugqo62jg6.us-east-1.rds.amazonaws.com',
        user='admin',
        password='password',
        database='baseball_cards'
    )

    #will place a cards id, popularity, price into dynamodb table from rds
    try:
        cursor = cnx.cursor()
        logger.info("Connected to RDS")
        select_query = "SELECT card_id, popularity, price, player FROM cards WHERE popularity >= 90"
        cursor.execute(select_query)

        rows = cursor.fetchall()
        logger.info(f"Fetched {len(rows)} rows")

        for row in rows:
            transformed_card_data = transform_card_data(row)
            if validate_data(transformed_card_data):
                logger.info(f"inserting: {transformed_card_data}")
                response = dynamo_table.put_item(Item=transformed_card_data)
                logger.info(f"DynamoDB Response: {response}")
            else:
                logger.error("Data validation failed")
```

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05

Analytics

With CloudWatch!



Configuration: CloudWatch

AWS CloudWatch was configured to provide basic monitoring to resources like **RDS**, **EC2**, and **DynamoDB**.

The **DynamoDB** dashboard will be able to provide more insights as the application grows. But for now, let's take a look at some metrics for our **EC2** server and **RDS** database.



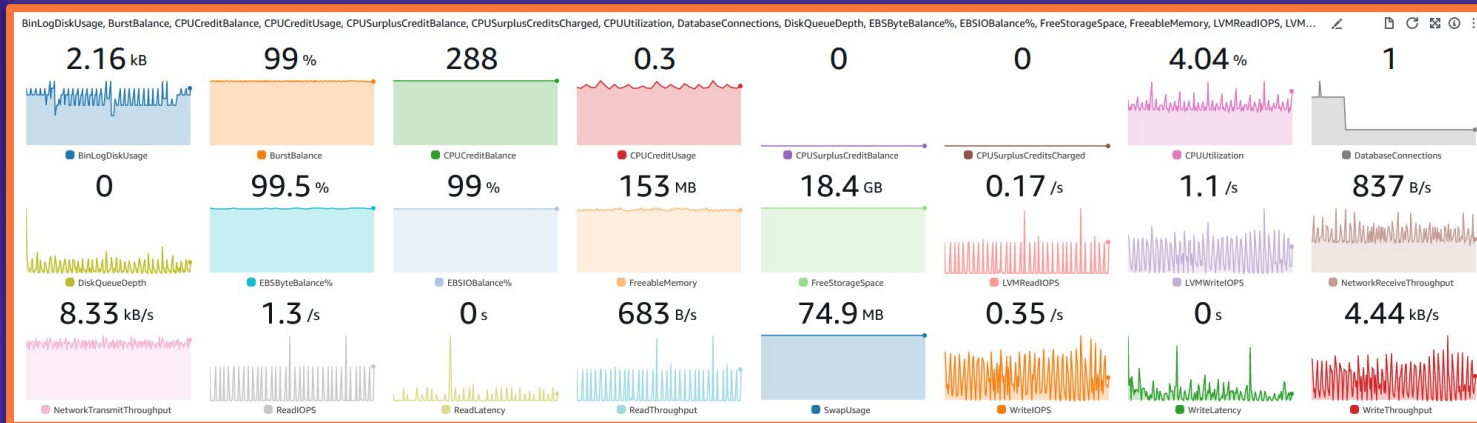
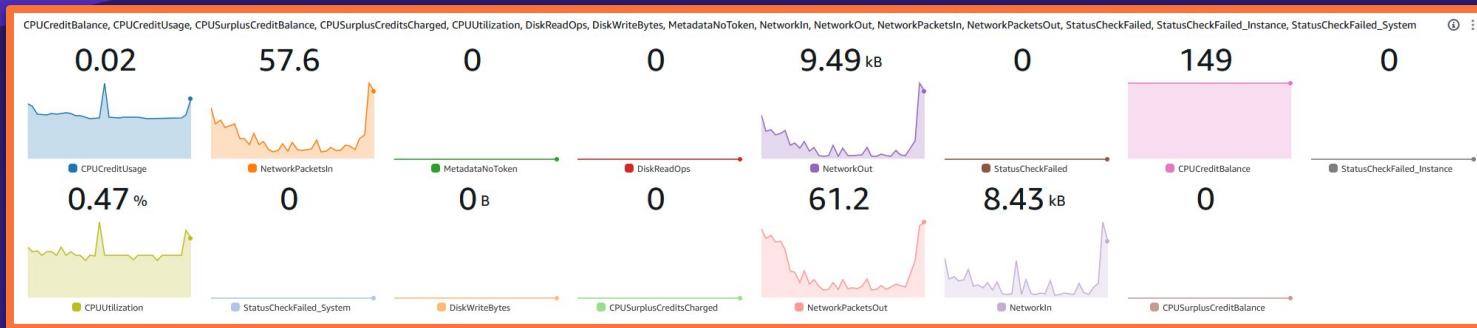
Configuration: CloudWatch cont.

EC2:

ECS:

RDS:

KD2:



06

Challenges

We had a lot of them!



Challenges

01

Changing Team

Over the course of the project, we lost 2 great members and gained another.

02

Endpoints

Our API endpoints worked for 'GET' requests, but not 'POST' requests.

03

Backend

Originally made by Lance, we eventually refactored the code so that we could work on it without him.

04

Database Migration

Desyncing of SQLAlchemy with our actual database was caused a lot of confusion.

05

Deployment

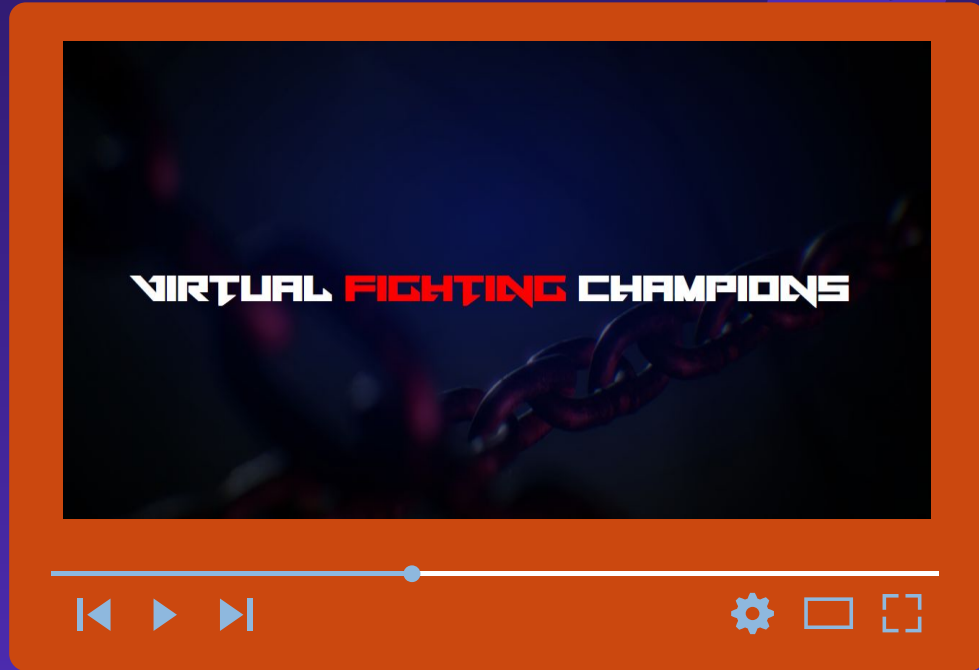
Ensuring the deployed version of the application was the most updated version.

06

Goal Interpretation

Because we had so many changes in code bases and team members, it was very hard to stay on the same page.

Questions?



in the Arms of the Angel

Finn Mikkola



**For real though, thank you
Cognixia. I understand the
market is tough.
Thank you to everyone who
helped me learn.**



**To the Instructors and my
classmates/coworkers.
Wish you all the best <3**

- Finn

Lance Boza



Centric Angels

