

A grayscale background image of a city skyline with various skyscrapers and buildings.

# EARL CONFERENCE 2019

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## A DevOps Process for deploying R to Production

David Smith, Microsoft

# A DevOps process for deploying R to production

David Smith  
Cloud Advocate, Microsoft  
@revodavid

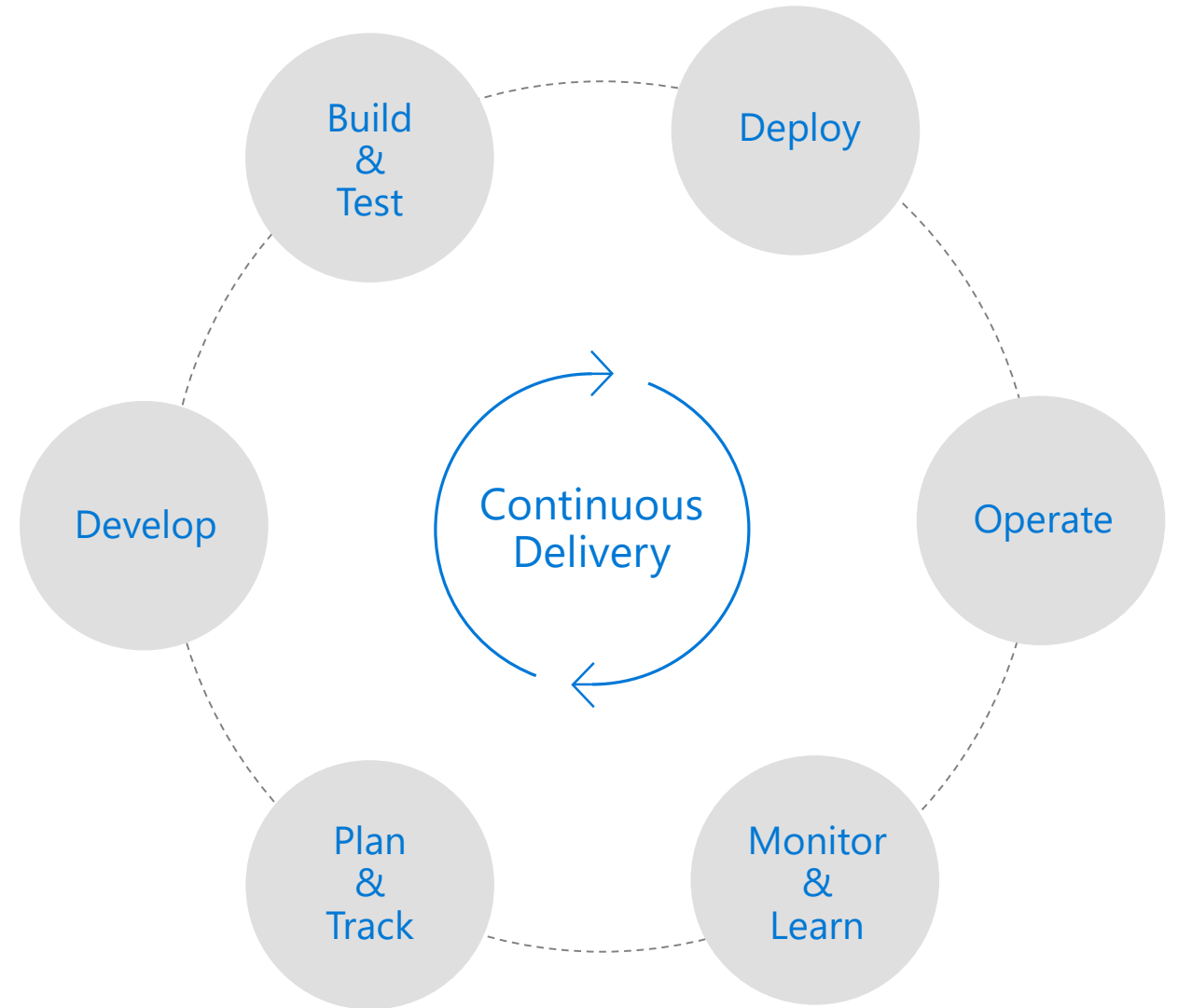
# What is DevOps?

People. Process. Products.

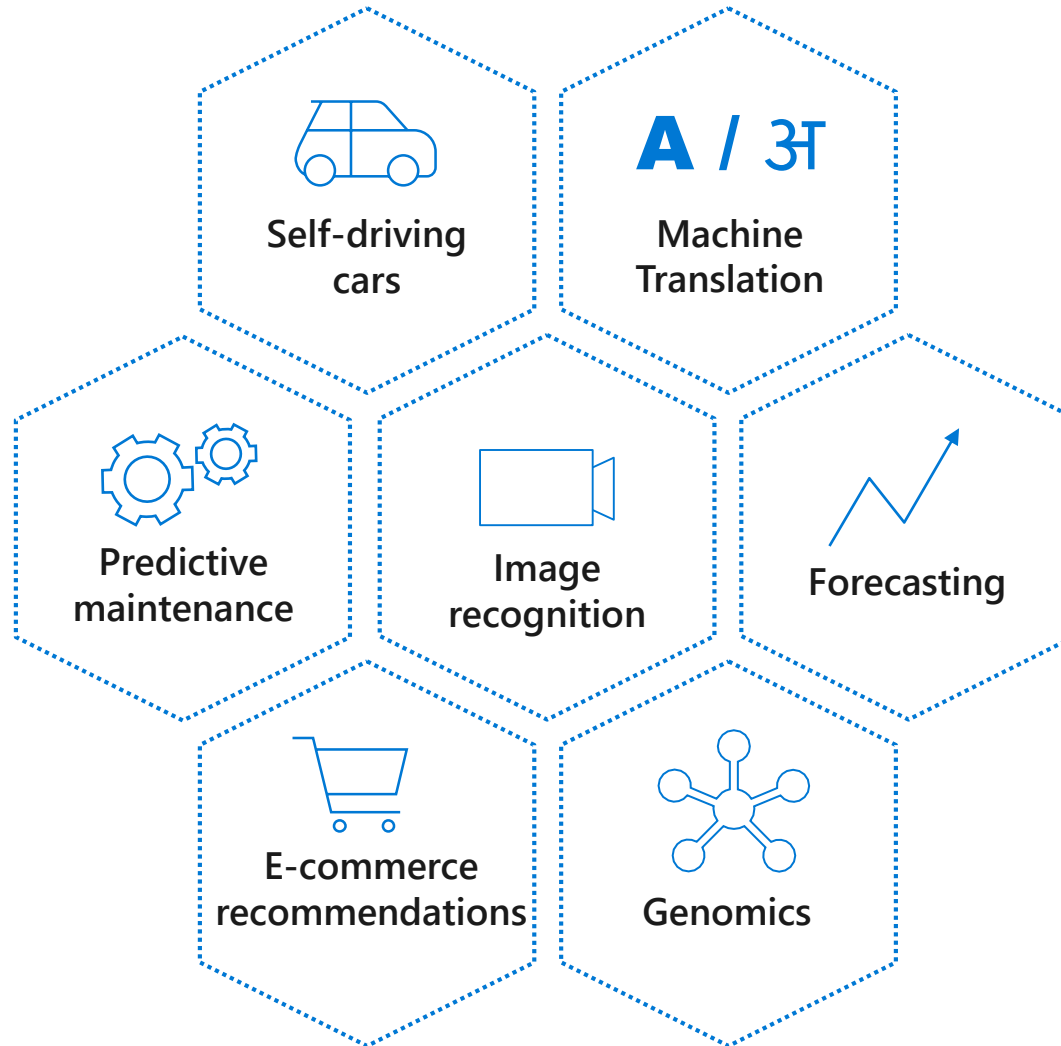


DevOps is the union of **people**, **process**, and **products** to enable continuous delivery of value to your end users. ”

Donovan Brown, Microsoft  
<http://bit.ly/WhatIs-DevOps>



# Machine Learning Applications



# Example: Automatic windscreen wipers



*"rain on windscreen" by [grace kat](#)*  
*licensed under [CC BY-SA 2.0](#)*

# Special considerations for MLOps

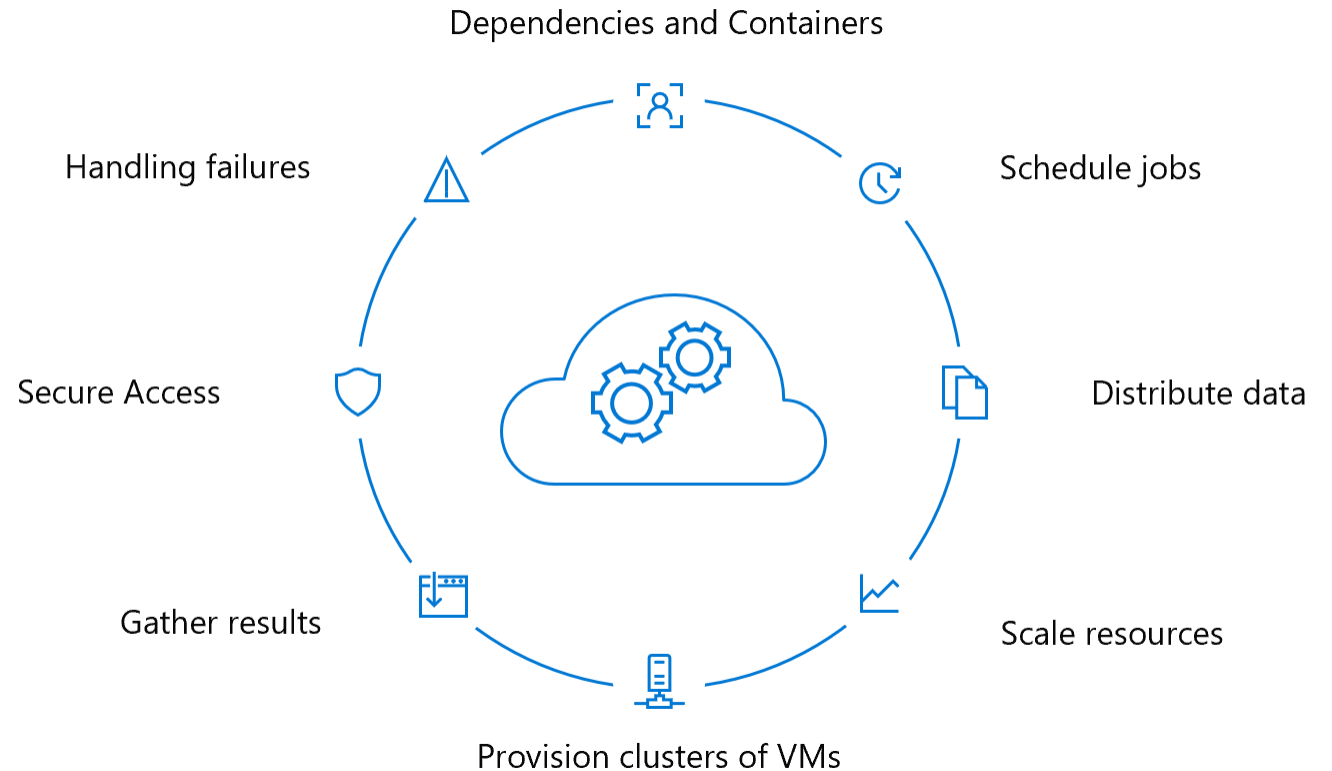
**People:** Data Scientists, ML Engineers

**Process:**

- Data as Code
- Model Lifecycle
- Tests
- Deployed APIs

**Products:**

- Hardware: Storage, GPUs
- Software: Datastores, Analytics Tools (R, Python, Tensorflow...)



# Azure Pipelines

Cloud-hosted pipelines for Linux, Windows and macOS, with unlimited minutes for open source



## Any language, any platform, any cloud

Build, test, and deploy Node.js, Python, Java, PHP, Ruby, C/C++, .NET, Android, and iOS apps. Run in parallel on Linux, macOS, and Windows. Deploy to Azure, AWS, GCP or on-premises



## Extensible

Explore and implement a wide range of community-built build, test, and deployment tasks, along with hundreds of extensions from Slack to SonarCloud. Support for YAML, reporting and more



## Containers and Kubernetes

Easily build and push images to container registries like Docker Hub and Azure Container Registry. Deploy containers to individual hosts or Kubernetes.

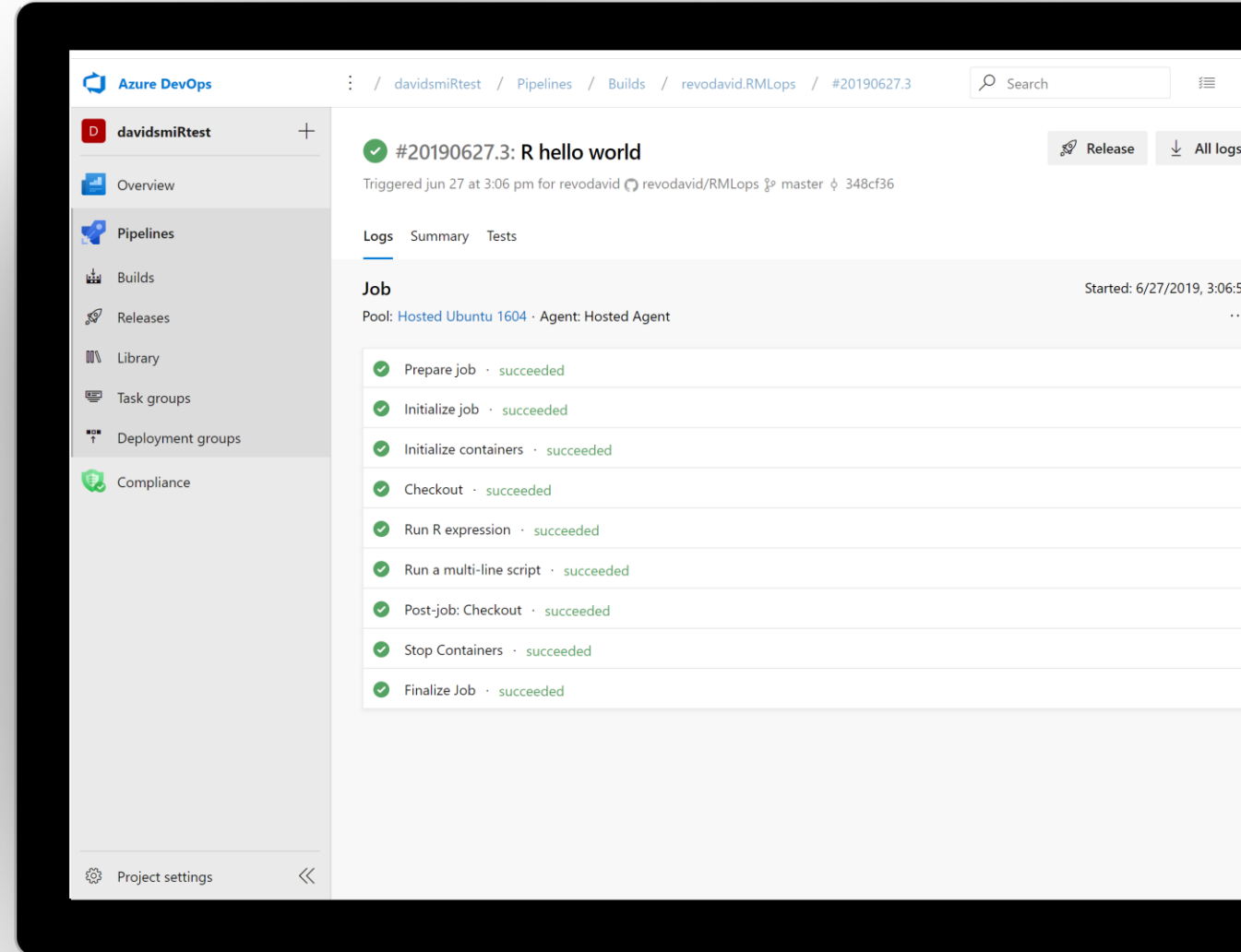


## Best-in-class for open source

Ensure fast continuous integration/continuous delivery (CI/CD) pipelines for every open source project. Get unlimited build minutes for all open source projects with up to 10 free parallel jobs across Linux, macOS and Windows



<https://azure.com/pipelines>





# Training R Models with Azure Pipelines

In Github Repo:

[github.com/revodavid/RMLOps](https://github.com/revodavid/RMLOps)

Data files

R scripts

YAML Pipeline specification

Status Badge



In Azure Pipelines:

[dev.azure.com/  
davidsmi0786/davidsmiRtest](https://dev.azure.com/davidsmi0786/davidsmiRtest)

Triggers

Build pipeline(s)

Release pipeline(s)



# Azure Pipelines: Process

Create Azure Pipeline with Github repository

Link RStudio project to Github repository

Develop R code as R script files as usual

Add steps to azure-pipelines.yml with Rscript commands

Check in updates to trigger builds

Branch: master ▼

[RMLops](#) / azure-pipelines.yml

```
9  pool:
10    vmImage: 'ubuntu-16.04'
11
12  container: 'rocker/r-ver:3.6.0'

14  steps:
15  - script: Rscript -e 'R.version'
16    displayName: 'Confirm R version'
17
18  - script: Rscript train-model.R
19    displayName: 'Train model'

6  trigger:
7  - master
```



# Containers and Azure Pipelines

Specify a container with your desired R version, packages, and any other software needed.

Container images can be hosted anywhere

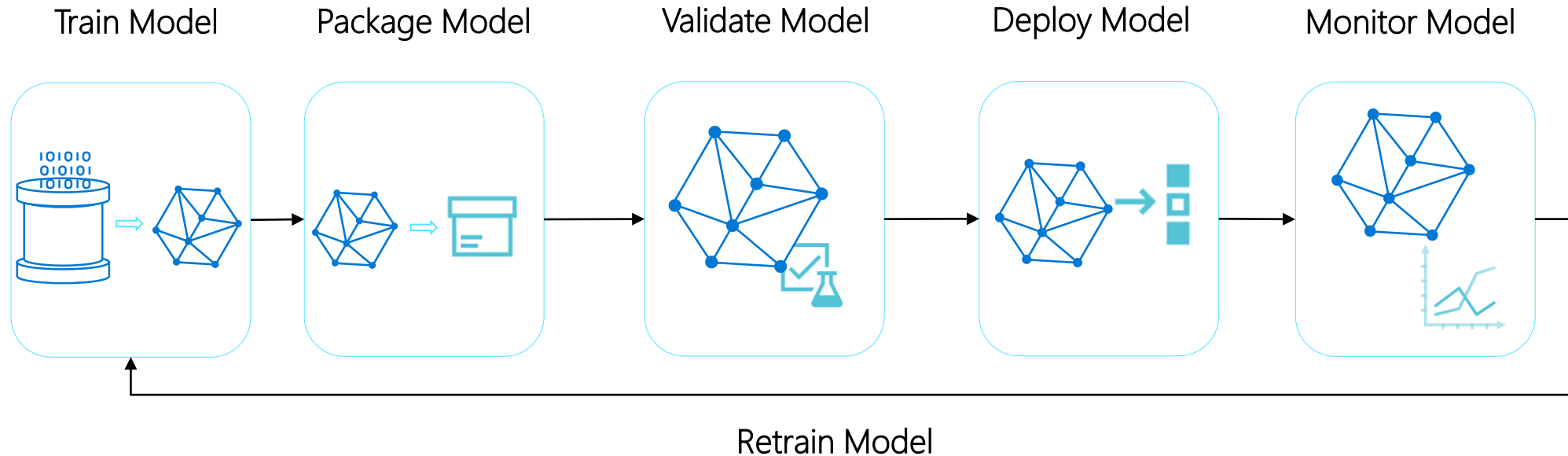
- Docker Hub, your own container registry, Azure Container Registry ...

**Tip 1:** The “Rocker” project provides pre-defined R containers for training:  
[www.rocker-project.org](http://www.rocker-project.org)

**Tip 2:** You can also deploy with containers using the AzureContainers package:  
[blog.revolutionanalytics.com/2018/12/azurecontainers.html](http://blog.revolutionanalytics.com/2018/12/azurecontainers.html)

# The End-to-End Machine Learning Model Lifecycle

- **Develop & train model** with reusable ML pipelines
- **Package model** using containers to capture runtime dependencies for inference
- **Validate model behavior**—functionally, in terms of responsiveness, in terms of regulatory compliance
- **Deploy model**—to cloud & edge, for use in real-time/streaming/batch processing
- **Monitor model** behavior & business value, know **when to replace/deprecate a stale model**



# What is Azure Machine Learning service?

Set of Azure  
Cloud Services



Python  
SDK

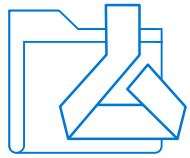
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That enables  
you to:

- ✓ Prepare Data
- ✓ Build Models
- ✓ Train Models

- ✓ Manage Models
- ✓ Track Experiments
- ✓ Deploy Models

# Azure Machine Learning Service



Workspace

Use any IDE / compute framework  
via Python SDK

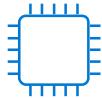


Data Stores



Experiments

Share compute resources



Compute Target



HyperDrive

Containerized deployments



Models



Images

Monitor performance



Deployments

Reproducible cloud collaboration

[ml.azure.com](https://ml.azure.com)

# Coming Soon: Azure ML Service SDK for R

New open-source R package for use with CRAN R

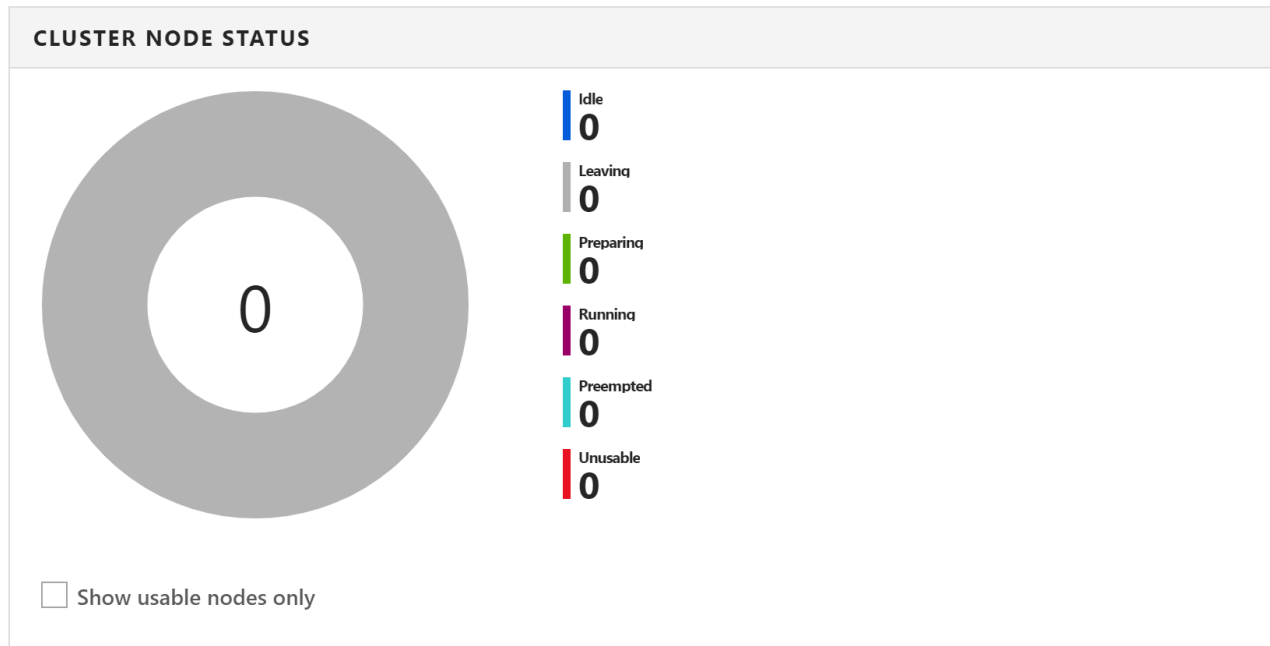
- Create Workspaces, Experiments, Compute, and other artefacts with R commands.
- Use any R function/package, while tracking dependencies for deployment
- Package models into containers for deployment as web-services for predictions
- HyperDrive support: smart hyperparameter search with parallel compute
- GPU support (useful for tensorflow, keras packages)



# Create Compute

Create max 4-node cluster in Azure for training:

```
compute_target <- create_aml_compute(  
  workspace = ws, cluster_name = "caret-cluster",  
  vm_size = "STANDARD_D2_V2", max_nodes = 4)
```



Monitor status in R or via the Azure portal

# Experiments and Runs

Train model with caret, log accuracy, and save reproducible environment

```
control <- trainControl(method = "cv", number = 10)
metric <- "Accuracy"
model <- train(response ~ ., data = train_data, method = "lda",
               metric = metric, trControl = control)
predictions <- predict(model, test_data)

conf_matrix = confusionMatrix(predictions, test_data$response)
current_run <- get_current_run()
log_metric_to_run(metric, conf_matrix$overall["Accuracy"], current_run)
```

Details Outputs Logs Snapshot

Download Snapshot

NAME	SIZE	DOWNLOAD
► .azureml		
<a href="#">iris.csv</a>	4.18 kB	<a href="#">↓</a>
<a href="#">launcher.R</a>	419 B	<a href="#">↓</a>
<a href="#">train-on-amlcompute.R</a>	1.33 kB	<a href="#">↓</a>
<a href="#">train.R</a>	1.13 kB	<a href="#">↓</a>

## Preview

```
1 # This script loads a dataset of which the last column is supposed to be the cla
2
3 library("azureml")
4 library("caret")
5 library("optparse")
6
7 options <- list(
8   make_option(c("-d", "--data_folder"))
```

# Hyperparameter optimization with keras

Efficiently search batch size, epoch, learning rate and decay

```
sampling <- random_parameter_sampling(list(batch_size = choice(c(16, 32, 64)),
                                          epochs = choice(c(200, 350, 500)),
                                          lr = normal(0.0001, 0.005),
                                          decay = uniform(1e-6, 3e-6)))

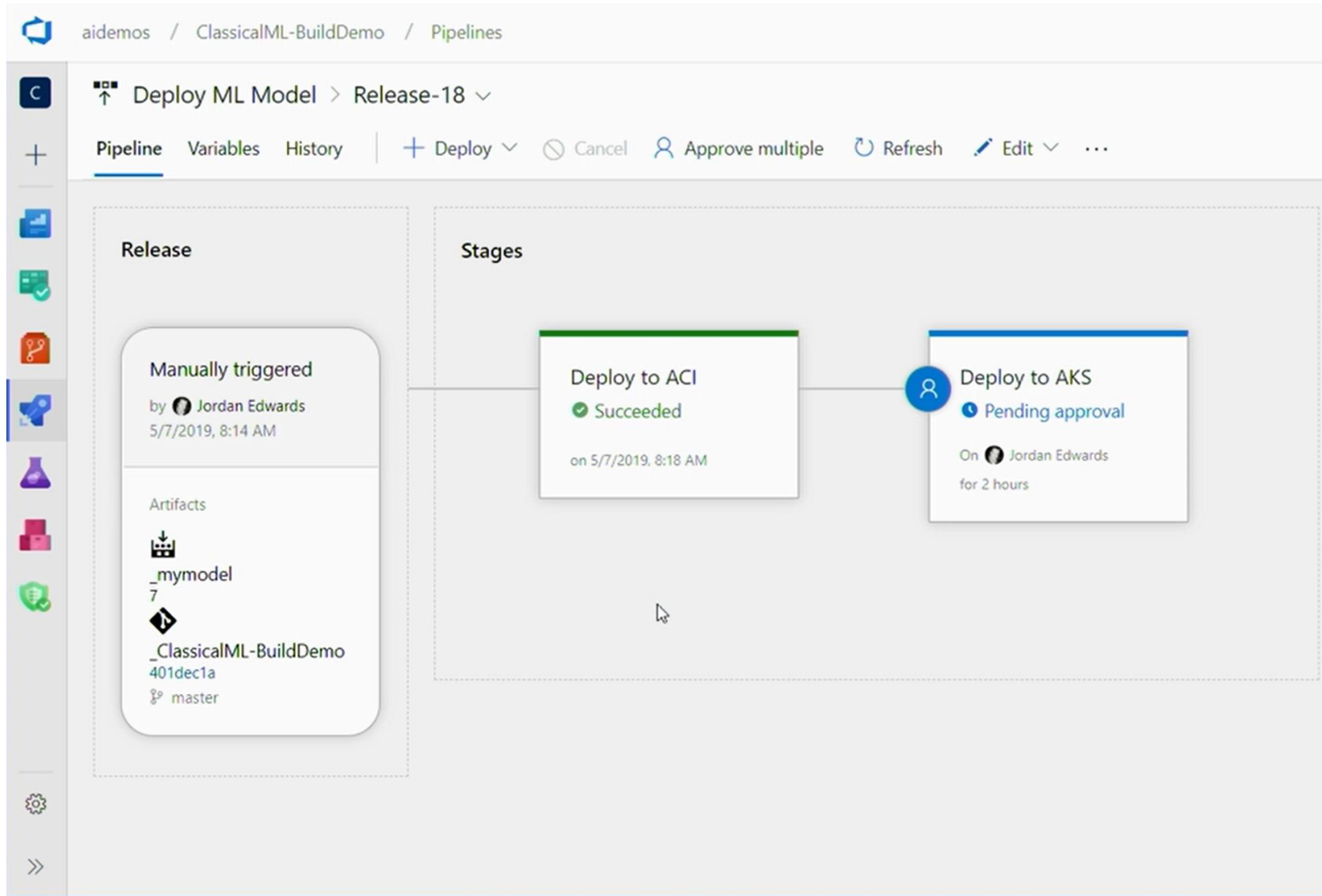
policy <- bandit_policy(slack_factor = 0.15)
hyperdrive_config <- hyperdrive_config(sampling, "Loss", primary_metric_goal("MINIMIZE"),
                                       4, policy = policy, estimator = est)

# submit hyperdrive run
hyperdrive_run <- submit_experiment(hyperdrive_config, exp)
wait_for_run_completion(hyperdrive_run, show_output = TRUE)

# find best-performing run
best_run <- get_best_run_by_primary_metric(hyperdrive_run)
```

# Pipelines with Azure MLOPS extension

Trigger builds/releases on model registration in Azure ML Services



The screenshot displays the Azure DevOps Pipelines interface for a release named "Release-18". The breadcrumb navigation at the top shows the path: aidemos / ClassicalML-BuildDemo / Pipelines. The main header indicates the release is triggered by "Deploy ML Model" and shows a dropdown for "Release-18".

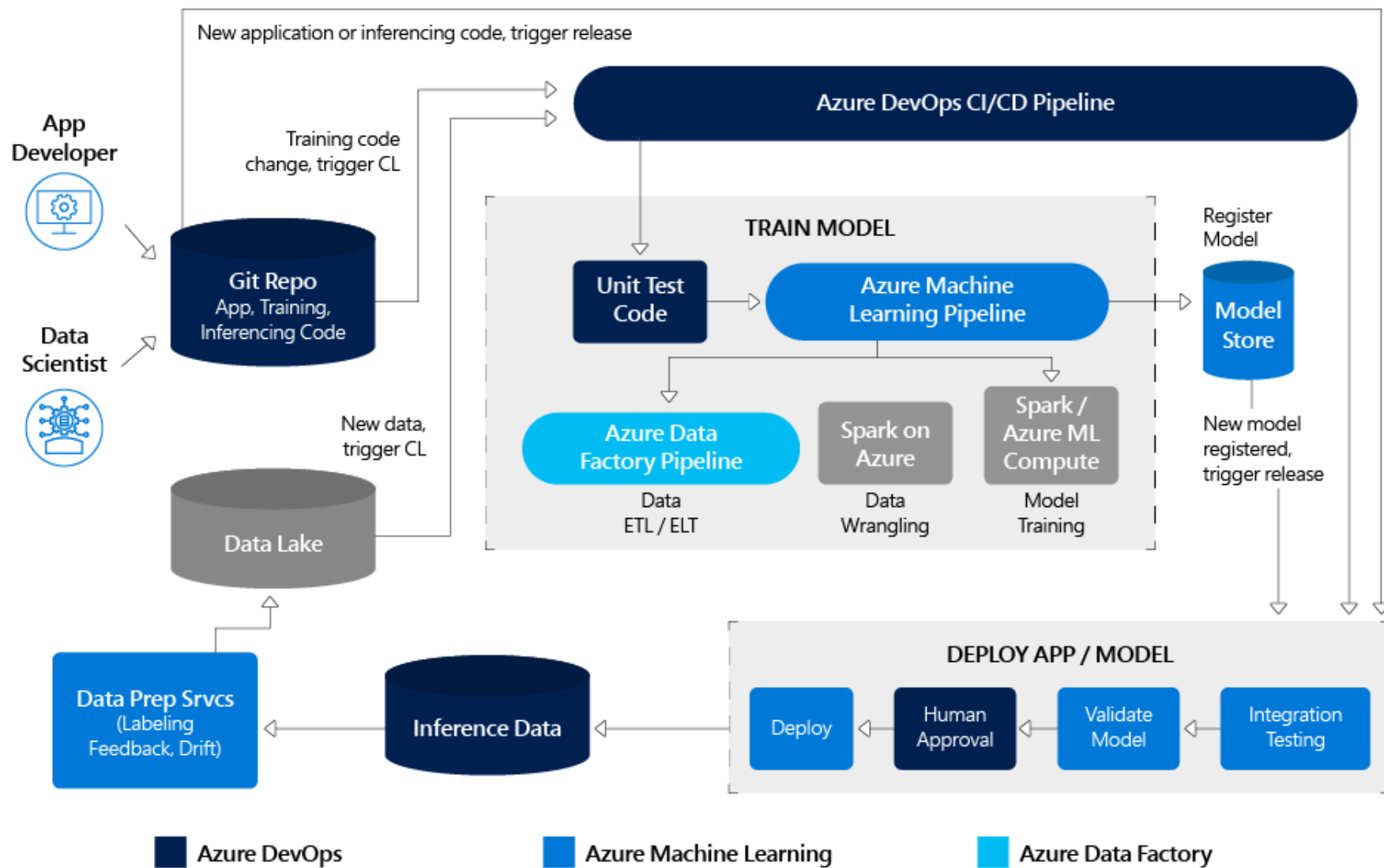
Below the header, there are tabs for "Pipeline", "Variables", and "History". The "Pipeline" tab is active, showing a visual representation of the release process. The release is triggered manually by Jordan Edwards on 5/7/2019 at 8:14 AM. The release includes two artifacts: "\_mymodel" and "\_ClassicalML-BuildDemo" (version 401dec1a, master branch).

The release process consists of two stages:

- Deploy to ACI**: This stage has completed successfully, indicated by a green checkmark and the status "Succeeded". It was executed on 5/7/2019 at 8:18 AM.
- Deploy to AKS**: This stage is currently pending approval, indicated by a blue clock icon and the status "Pending approval". It was initiated by Jordan Edwards and has a 2-hour timeout.

The interface also includes a sidebar with various Azure DevOps services and a top navigation bar with options like "Deploy", "Cancel", "Approve multiple", "Refresh", and "Edit".

# Complete MLOPS workflow



Integrating the Data Science and App Development Cycles

Francesca Lazzeri, Microsoft

Medium:  
<https://aka.ms/AA5ib6c>



# Azure Pipelines

Free **unlimited** build minutes for public projects

Up to 10 free parallel jobs across Windows, Linux and macOS


 <https://azure.com/pipelines>



# Azure ML Service

**Free** workspaces, experiments, model registry

Standard Azure rates for compute and deployment **or** use your own servers for free

 <https://azure.com/ml>

# Resources

## MLOps: Manage, deploy, and monitor models with Azure Machine Learning Service

Microsoft Docs: <https://aka.ms/mlopsdoc>

## Train and deploy ML models with Azure Pipelines

Microsoft Docs: <https://aka.ms/azpipe>

## Azure Machine Learning Service

Microsoft Docs: <https://aka.ms/amlsvc>

## These Slides

[github.com/revodavid/RMLops/](https://github.com/revodavid/RMLops/)

David Smith  
Cloud Advocate, Microsoft  
@revodavid

## \$200 free credits for new Azure users

[aka.ms/azure-free-credits](https://aka.ms/azure-free-credits)



# Thank you

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