

MLOPS with R: An end-to-end process for building machine learning applications

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MLOps for R with Azure Machine Learning

David Smith | January 31, 2020



github.com/revodavid/mlops-r

@revodavid at #nyrconf

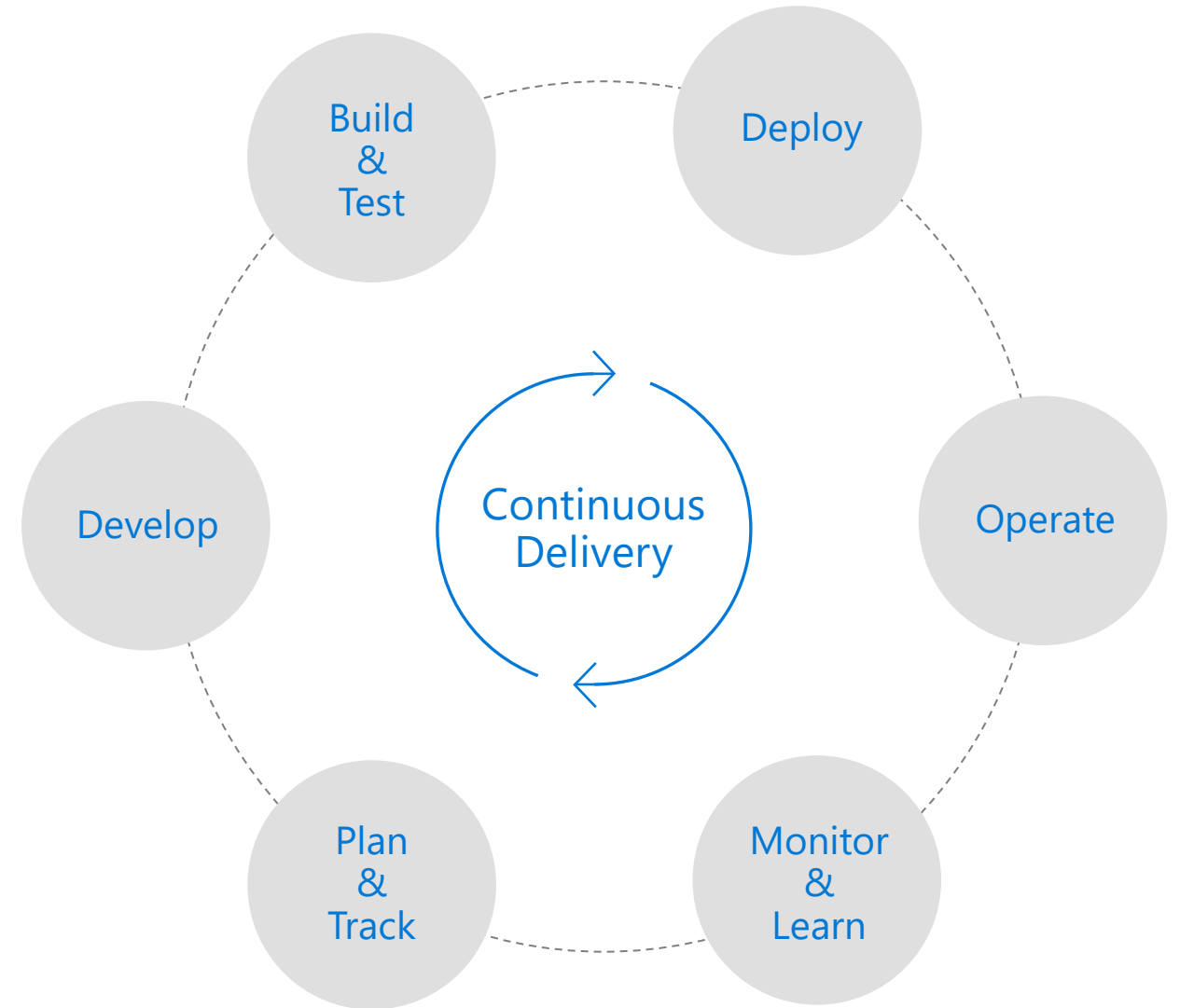
What is DevOps?

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>



DEVOPS	MLOPS
Manage code (source files)	Manage code (source files) Manage data files, notebooks, Rmd docs
Manage infrastructure (as code)	Manage infrastructure (as code) Manage environments (as code)
Source code control	Source code control Track experiment outcomes Manage data sets
Build executables Builds take hours (mostly) commodity compute	Train models Model training may take weeks or months GPU compute
Manage build versions	Manage model versions Manage reproducible environments
Tests (deterministic) Fix bugs with code	Tests (probabilistic) Fix bugs with code and/or data Model drift / model retraining

Accident Fatality Probability Estimator

Occupant Age:
16 69 95
16 24 32 40 48 56 64 72 80 88 95

Occupant gender:
f

Occupant role:
pass

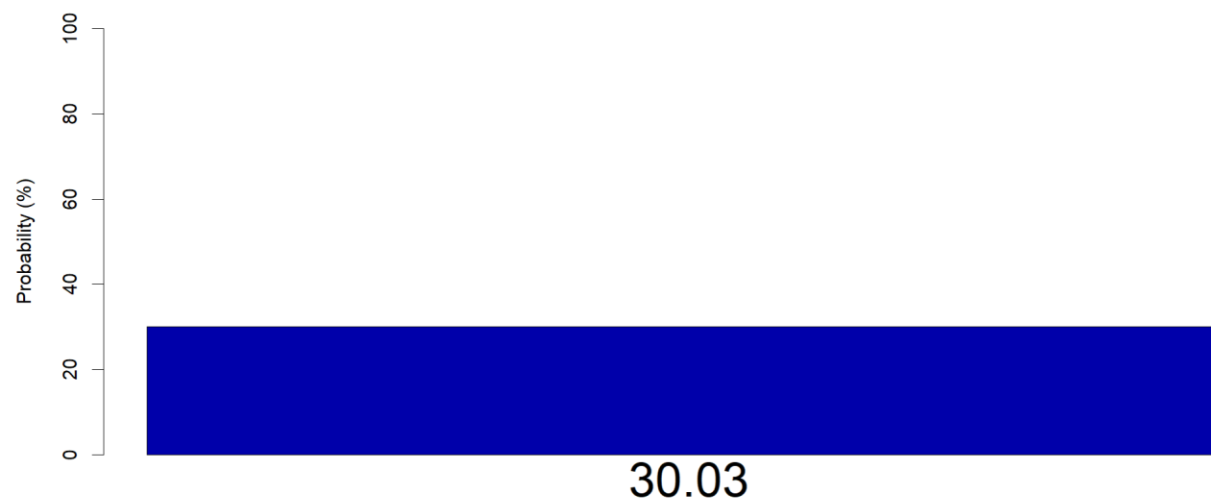
Vehicle Year:
1,955 2,002 2,005
1,955 1,960 1,965 1,970 1,975 1,980 1,985 1,990 1,995 2,000 2,005

Seatbelt:
belted

Airbag:
none

Impact speed:
40-54

Collision type:
notfrontal



Azure Machine Learning service

Set of Azure
Cloud Services



Python & R
SDKs

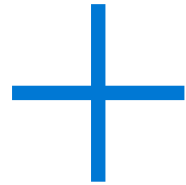
That enables
you to:

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

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

Azure Machine Learning service

Set of Azure
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Python & R
SDKs



GitHub
Actions

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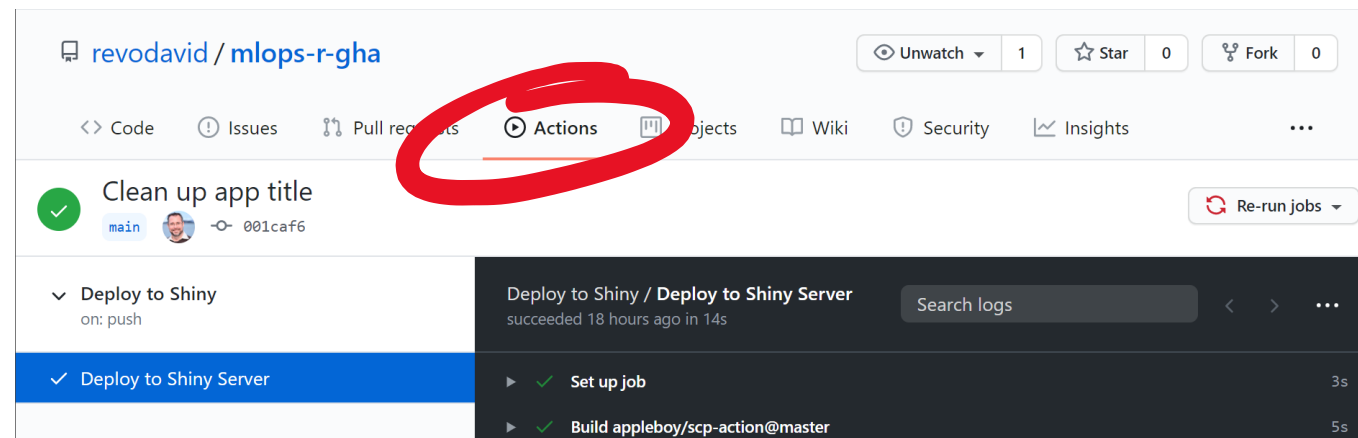
- ✓ Manage Code
- ✓ Collaborate
- ✓ Continuous Integration

GitHub Actions TL;DR

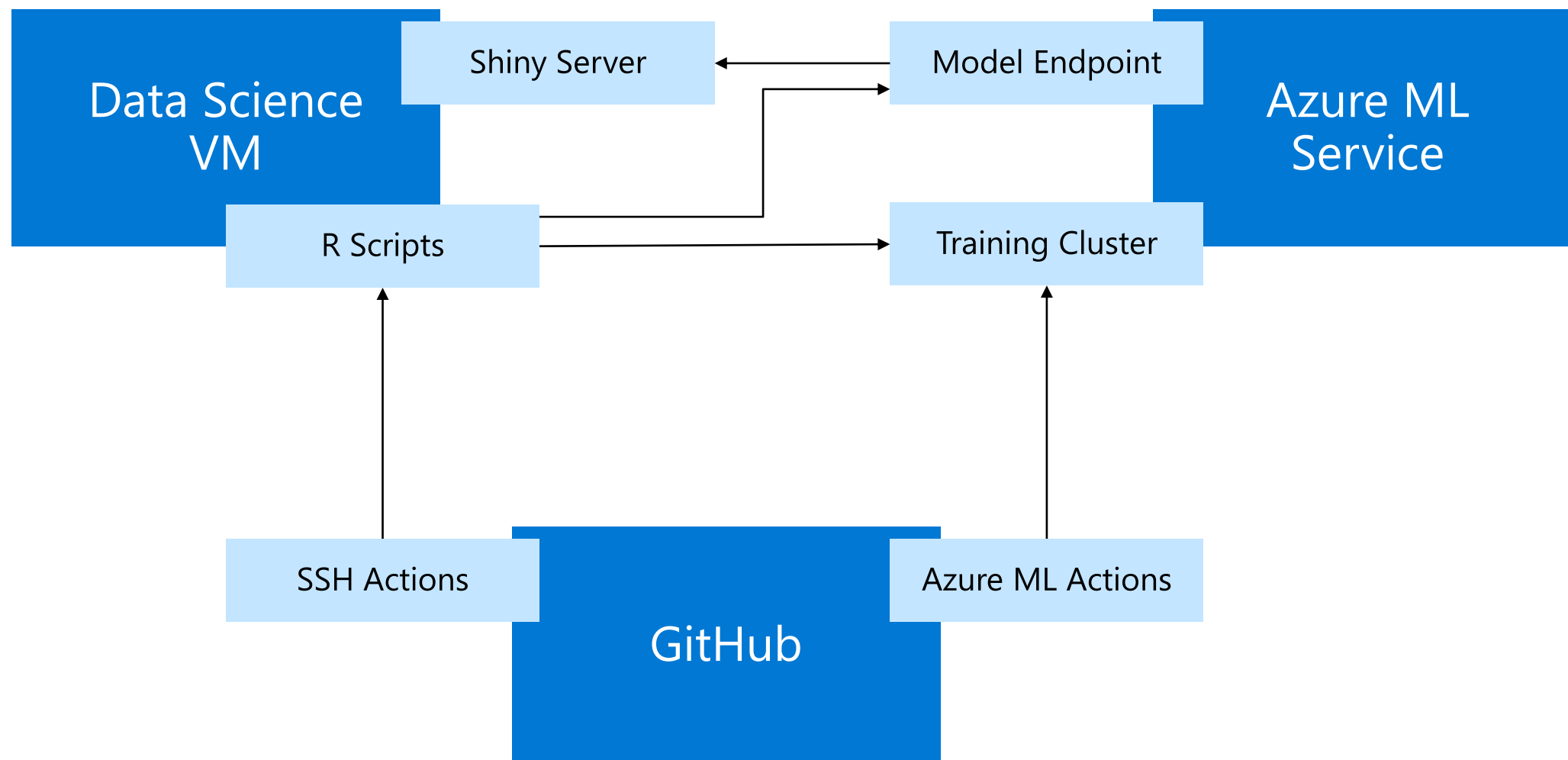
Create YAML files in `.github/workflows` to define jobs

Search GitHub Actions Marketplace for pre-defined templates

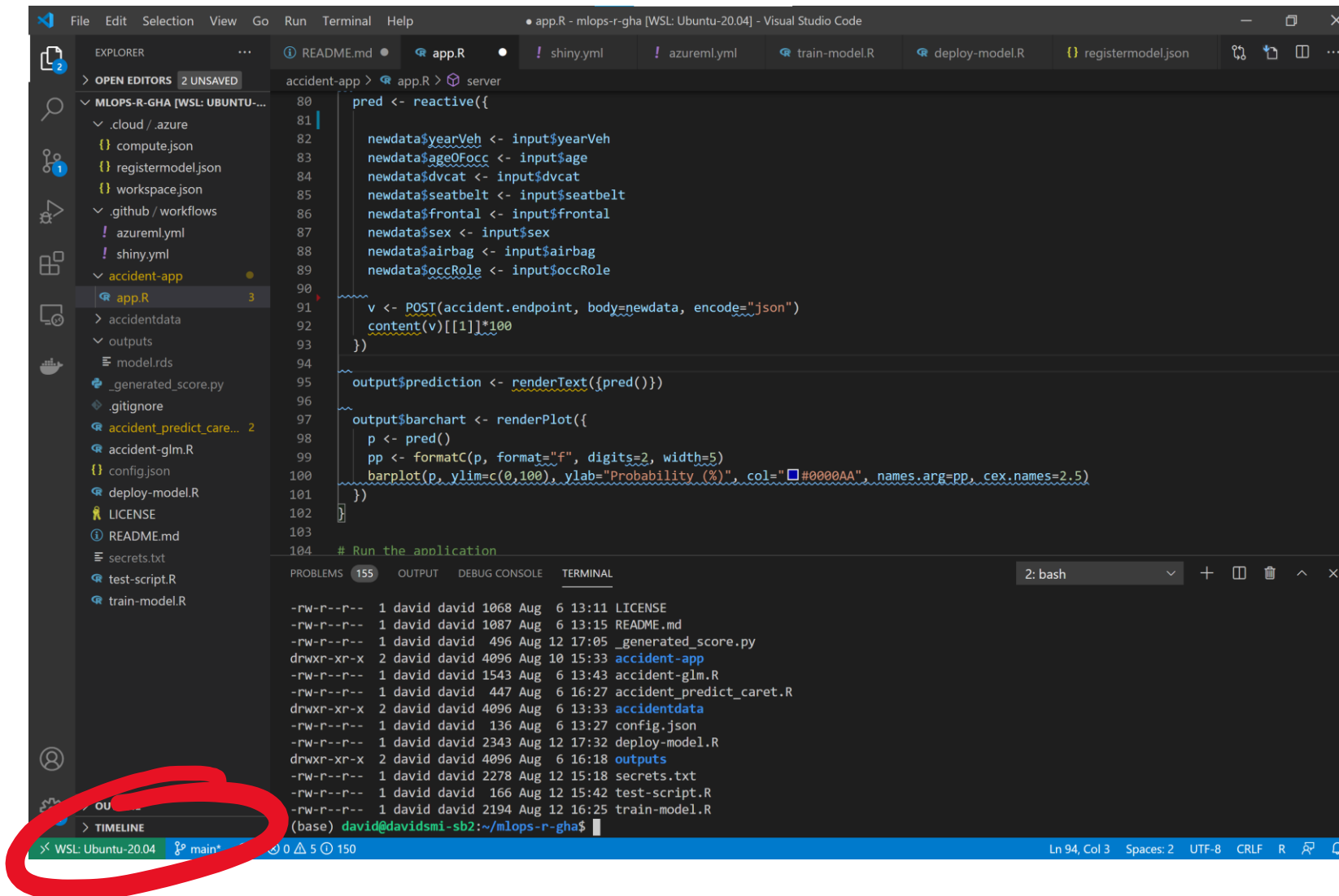
Push, then monitor workflows from the Actions tab



"Accident" Shiny Application Architecture



Dev environment: VS Code + WSL



The screenshot shows the Visual Studio Code interface with a WSL terminal. The Explorer panel on the left shows the file structure of the 'accident-app' project. The main editor displays the 'app.R' script, which is a reactive web application using the 'shiny' package. The script defines input fields for vehicle details and accident information, and uses a POST request to a model endpoint to predict an accident probability. A bar chart is rendered based on the prediction. The terminal window at the bottom shows the output of the 'ls' command, listing files in the current directory. A red circle highlights the WSL terminal window.

```
pred <- reactive({
  newdata$yearVeh <- input$yearVeh
  newdata$ageOfOcc <- input$age
  newdata$dvcac <- input$dvcac
  newdata$seatbelt <- input$seatbelt
  newdata$frontal <- input$frontal
  newdata$sex <- input$sex
  newdata$airbag <- input$airbag
  newdata$occRole <- input$occRole

  v <- POST(accident.endpoint, body=newdata, encode="json")
  content(v)[[1]]*100
})

output$prediction <- renderText({pred()})

output$barchart <- renderPlot({
  p <- pred()
  pp <- formatC(p, format="f", digits=2, width=5)
  barplot(p, ylim=c(0,100), ylab="Probability (%)", col="#0000AA", names.arg=pp, cex.names=2.5)
})

# Run the application
```

```
1 david david 1068 Aug 6 13:11 LICENSE
1 david david 1087 Aug 6 13:15 README.md
1 david david 496 Aug 12 17:05 _generated_score.py
2 david david 4096 Aug 10 15:33 accident-app
1 david david 1543 Aug 6 13:43 accident-glm.R
1 david david 447 Aug 6 16:27 accident_predict_caret.R
2 david david 4096 Aug 6 13:33 accidentdata
1 david david 136 Aug 6 13:27 config.json
1 david david 2343 Aug 12 17:32 deploy-model.R
2 david david 4096 Aug 6 16:18 outputs
1 david david 2278 Aug 12 15:18 secrets.txt
1 david david 166 Aug 12 15:42 test-script.R
1 david david 2194 Aug 12 16:25 train-model.R
(base) david@davidsmi-sb2:~/mlops-r-gha$
```

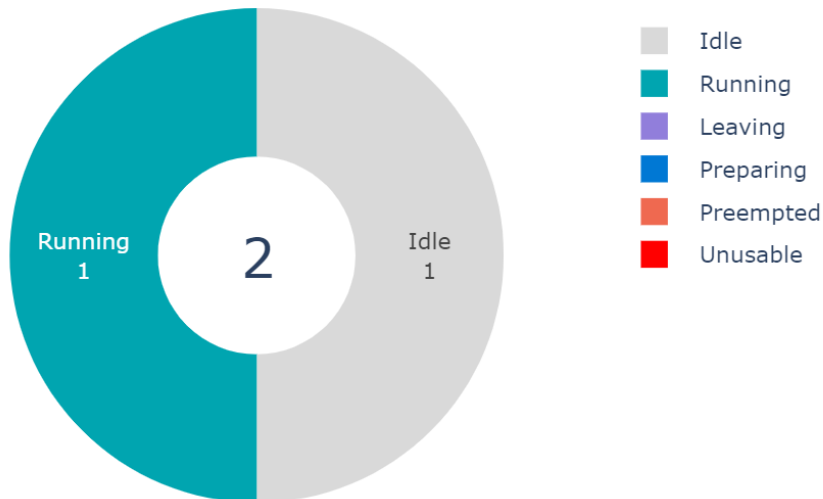
Create 4-node training cluster

azureml.yml

```
# Connect or Create a Compute Target in Azure Machine Learning
- name: Connect/Create Azure Machine Learning Compute Target
  id: aml_compute_training
  uses: Azure/aml-compute@v1
  with:
    azure_credentials: ${ secrets.AZURE_CREDENTIALS }
```

compute.json

```
{
  "name": "rcluster",
  "compute_type": "amlcluster",
  "min_nodes": 0,
  "max_nodes": 4,
  "idle_seconds_before_scaledown": 600
}
```



- Unused nodes de-allocate automatically
- Increase idle timeout when developing

Train model

azureml.yml

```
# Connect to the Shiny VM to train the model
- name: Train model
  uses: JimCronqvist/action-ssh@master
  env:
    AZURE_CREDENTIALS: '${{ secrets.AZURE_CREDENTIALS}}'
  with:
    hosts: '${{ secrets.SHINYUSERNAME }}@${{ secrets.SHINYHOST }}'
    privateKey: '${{ secrets.SHINYKEY }}'
    command: |
      cd mlops-r-gha
      export AZURE_CREDENTIALS
      Rscript train-model.R
```

train-model.R

```
est <- estimator(source_directory=".",
                 entry_script = "accident-glm.R",
                 script_params = list("--data_folder" = ds$path(target_path),
                                     compute_target = compute_target)
run <- submit_experiment(exp, est)
```

Experiments tracked with source scripts and recorded metrics

Control execution with command line parameters

Most packages pre-loaded, custom packages supported

accident

Edit table Refresh Reset view Add chart

Add filter

☐ Include child runs

Run status

0
Running

3
Failed

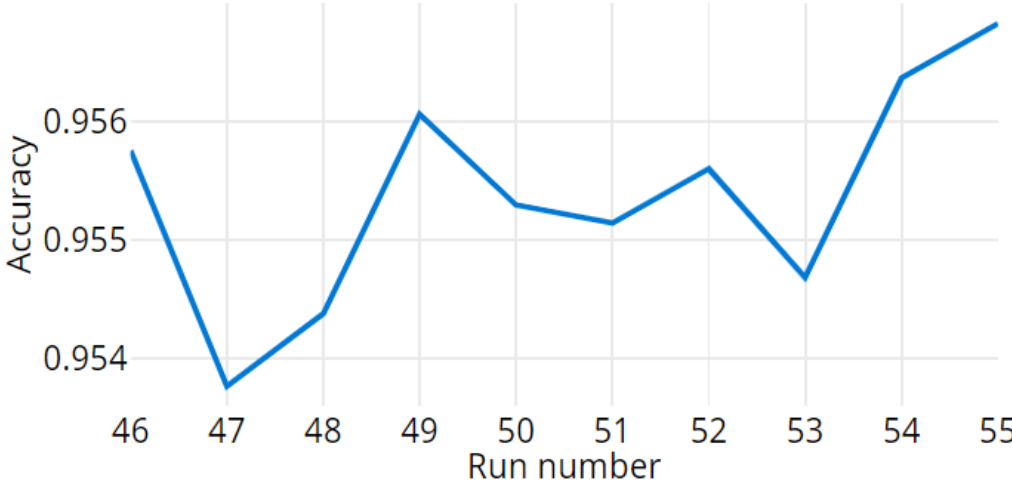
52
Completed

0
Other

☐ Show only selected rows (10 selected)

	Run	Run ID	Status	Submitted time	Duration	Submitted by	Compute target
	Run 55	accide...	Completed	Aug 13, 2020 3:52 PM	4m 40s	Service principal	rcluster

Accuracy



Deploy Model as REST endpoint

deploy-model.yml

```
inference_config <- inference_config(  
  entry_script = "accident_predict_caret.R",  
  source_directory = ".",  
  environment = r_env)  
  
aci_config <- aci_webservice_deployment_config(cpu_cores = 1, memory_gb = 0.5)  
  
aci_service <- deploy_model(ws,  
  'accidents-gha',  
  list(model),  
  inference_config,  
  aci_config)  
wait_for_deployment(aci_service, show_output = TRUE)
```

Name	Description	Created on	Created by	Updated on
accidents-gha	--	August 13, 2020 4:01 PM	d2fbafa0-336d-4ae2-83da-7c7df...	August 13, 2020 4:01 PM

Integrate model into Shiny app

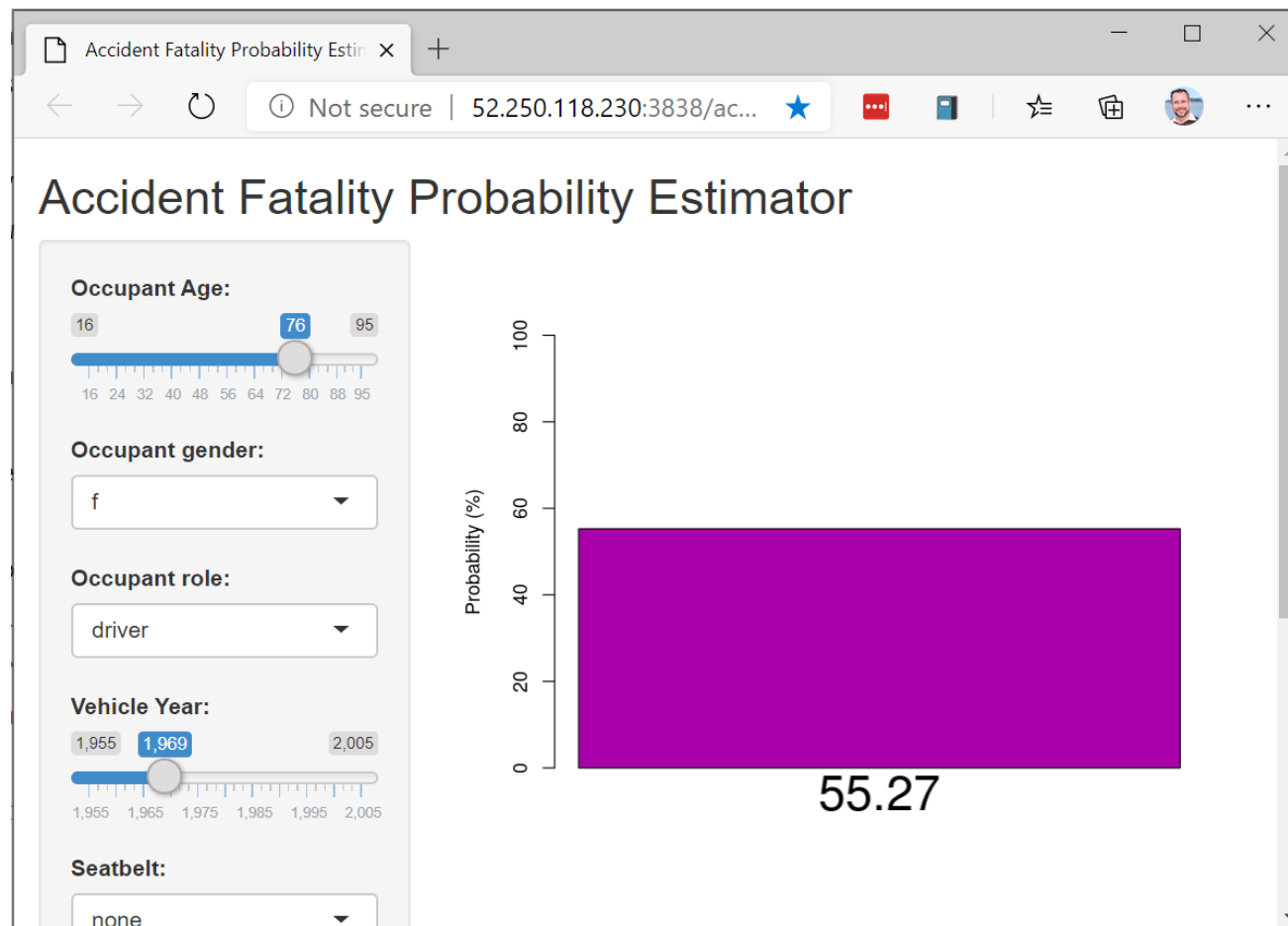
app.R

```
library(httr)
v <- POST(accident.endpoint,
          body=input,
          encode="json")
```

```
pred <- content(v)[[1]]
```

shiny.yml

```
- name: copy files via ssh key
  uses: appleboy/scp-action@master
  with:
    host: ${ secrets.SHINYHOST }
    username: ${ secrets.SHINYUSERNAME }
    key: ${ secrets.SHINYKEY }
    source: "accident-app/app.R"
    target: "~"
```



Demo: Actions in action

Costs per day*

*\$US. Cost vary by region and service. Example for illustration.

GitHub Actions	\$0.00
Azure ML service	\$0.00 (Studio, logging, orchestration)
Training cluster	\$0.10 (as needed)
Scoring endpoint	\$1.67 (Azure Container Instances)
Shiny Server	\$3.59 (Data Science VM, 4CPU 14Gb)
TOTAL	\$5.36

Azure subscription with \$200 in free credits: **aka.ms/AML-NYR**

Thank you!

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Slides and links:
github.com/revodavid/mlops-r-gha