Testing the performance of the service of the Care web application



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Introduction

This document summarizes scalability testing done on the Care web application using the K6 scalability tool. The scalability testing is based on testing each microservice (medicine-inventory-service & user-medicine-inventory-service) to evaluate how much users the services can handle. The testing consists of smoke, load, stress and soak testing.

These tests have been conducted on each service running on Azure Kubernetes to examine the performance of the application.

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K6 Scalability Tool

Grafana k6 is an open-source load testing tool to test the performance and reliability of a system and catch performance regressions and problems earlier. The goal of k6 is to help developers build resilient and performant applications that scale.

K6 is used for testing the performance and reliability of API's, microservices and websites. Common k6 uses are Load testing (including smoke, load, stress and soak testing), browser testing, chaos and resilience testing, performance and synthetic monitoring.

Types of Performance Testing



Image 1: "Load Test Layout of what tests it consists of"

Context

The k6 scalability testing tool as indicated in section "k6 Scalability Tool" runs load testing. This testing includes multiple types of testing such as smoke, load, stress, and soak testing. Further in this section you can read more of the different type of testing and their purpose of usage.

Smoke Testing

Context

Smoke tests are to verify that the system can handle minimal load without any issues. Once the smoke test displays zero errors, is the next to carry out a load test.

Load Testing

Context

Load tests evaluate system performance with regards to concurrent users or requests per seconds. The goal of this test is to examine if the system is meeting the set performance goals.

The load test is used establish a system's behavior under both standard and peak state.

Stress Testing

Context

Stress tests estimate the limits and stability of the system under utmost conditions. Stress testing is a kind of load testing used to find out the limits of the system. With the aid of the stress test, we can determine how the system will act under extreme constrain, what the maximal capacity of the system is in terms of users, the breaking point of the system and its failure mode and lastly, if the system will recover without manual intervention after the stress test is over.

Soak Testing

Context

Soak tests determine the reliability and performance of the system over a long duration. The purpose of the soak test is to detect performance and reliability issues derived from the system being under pressure for an extended period.

Smoke Testing

Context

This smoke test is based on looping 1 user for 1 minute to verify that the service does not throw any errors when under minimal load.

Virtual Users (VU) chart



Image 2: "Virtual User Chart of the Smoke Test"

The VU chart of a smoke tests that is used for the service should look similar to image 2 when using 1 user.

We will be creating and testing two smoke tests on the medicine inventory and user medicine inventory service of the care web application.

User Medicine Service

For the user medicine inventory service, we will be testing the minimal amount of users the service can handle under a (GET) request.

Scenario

```
export const options = {
    vus: 1, // 1 user looping for 1 minute
    duration: '1m',

    thresholds: {
        http_req_duration: ['p(99)<1500'], // 99% of requests must complete below 1.5s
        },
    };

const BASE_URL = 'http://20.103.147.242';
const USER = 'b4e4830c-39b8-4898-98e7-f628763aa905'
```

Image 3: "set criteria for the smoke test for the user medicine inventory service"

The test is based on how long one user can perform a get request to see what medicines are appointed to them. We will be using the get request of this URL http://20.103.147.242/prescription/user/b4e4830c-39b8-4898-98e7-f628763aa905 for the user with the id of b4e4830c-39b8-4898-98e7-f628763aa905 running on Azure Kubernetes.

The prerequisite for the test to pass is that the duration of the request from sending to retrieving the data should take 1.5 s of 99% of the requests sent.

Summary

Image 4: "results of the smoke test for the user medicine inventory service"

As you can see from the above photo, the user medicine inventory service passes the minimal amount of users it can handle based on the set criteria.

Medicine Inventory Service

For the medicine inventory service, we will be testing the minimal amount of users the service can handle under a (GET) request.

Scenario

Image 5: "set criteria for the smoke test for the medicine inventory service"

The test is based on how long a user can perform a GET request to retrieving all medicines registered in the application. We will be using the get request of this URL http://20.103.147.242/medicines running on Azure Kubernetes.

The prerequisite for the test to pass is that the duration of the request from sending to retrieving the data should take 1.5 s of 99% of the requests sent.

Summary

Image 6: "results of the smoke test for the medicine inventory service"

As you can see from the above photo, the medicine inventory service passes the minimal amount of users it can handle based on the set criteria.

Load Testing

Criteria

We will set stages to ramping up the number of users for the service and observing the performance to how well the service can handle the amount of users for a duration of a specific time. We will be trying out 3 stages of ramping.

The expectation of each of the stages are:

- 99% of requests should finish within 5 seconds.
- 95% of requests should finish within 1 second.

```
import http from 'k6/http';

import { check, sleep } from 'k6';

export const options = {

insecureSkipTLSVerify: true,

noConnectionReuse: false,

stages: {

// A list of virtual users { target: ..., duration: ... } objects that specify

// the target number of VUs to ramp up or down to for a specific period.

{ duration: 'lm', target: 10 }, // simulate ramp-up of traffic from 1 to 10 users over 10 minutes.

{ duration: 'lm', target: 10 }, // stay at 10 users for 2 minutes

{ duration: 'lm', target: 0 }, // ramp-down to 0 users

},

thresholds: {

// A collection of threshold specifications to configure under what condition(s)

// a test is considered successful or not

'http_req_duration': ['p(99)<1500'], // 99% of requests must complete below 1.5s

};
```

Image 7: "Load Test stage 1 set targets"

Stage 1 will consist of ramping up the number of users to 10 in 1 minute, staying at 10 users for 2 minutes and then ramping down to 0 users in a span of 1 min. as shown in image 7. The purpose of this stage is to see if the system can handle a small amount of load.

```
import http from 'k6/http';

import { check, sleep } from 'k6';

export const options = {
    insecureSkipTLSVerify: true,
    noConnectionReuse: false,
    stages: [

    // A list of virtual users { target: ..., duration: ... } objects that specify
    // the target number of VUs to ramp up or down to for a specific period.
    { duration: '5m', target: 100 }, // simulate ramp-up of traffic from 1 to 100 users over 5 minutes.
    { duration: '10m', target: 100 }, // stay at 100 users for 10 minutes
    { duration: '5m', target: 0 }, // ramp-down to 0 users

    // A collection of threshold specifications to configure under what condition(s)
    // a test is considered successful or not
    'http_req_duration': ['p(99)<1500'], // 99% of requests must complete below 1.5s
}

};
```

Image 8: "Load Test stage 2 set targets"

Stage 2 will consist of ramping up the number of users to 100 in 5 minutes, staying at 100 users for 10 minutes and then ramping down to 0 users in a span of 5 min. as shown in image 8. Where 100 users are our peak hours which we will be assessing. The purpose of this stage is to see if the system can handle the normal amount of load of users they receive on an average.

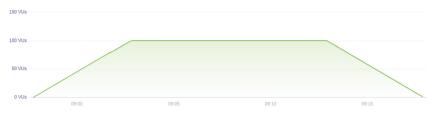


Image 9: "Virtual User Chart of stage 2 Load Test"

The VU chart of stage 2 can look similar to image 9.

Image 10: "Load Test stage 3 set targets"

Stage 3 is a step further of step 2. Stage 3 is to resemble a normal and peak conditions normally for the services. Here we will configure a load test to stay at 60 users for most of the day which is the average amount of users which have been determined to visit the site. And then ramp up to 100 users during the peak hours and then ramp back down to normal load. The purpose of this stage is to see if the system can handle an average amount of users they receive on an average including peak hours.



Image 11: "Virtual User Chart of stage 3 Load Test"

The VU chart of stage 3 can look similar to image 11.

We will be creating and testing the 3 set stages of load tests on the medicine inventory service and not the user medicine inventory service of the care web application due time limitation.

Medicine Service Request View

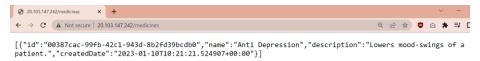


Image 12: "Results of stage 2 load testing on the medicine inventory service"

The request that will be tested on the medicine service for the load test is a get request of one registered medicine that is shown in image 12.

Stage 1 results

Image 13: "Results of stage 1 load testing on the medicine inventory service"

Summary

As you can see from the above photo, the user medicine service passes the stage 1 load test of handling a ramping to 10 users with an average of 29.16 ms for the duration of handling requests.

Stage 2 results

Image 14: "Results of stage 2 load testing on the medicine inventory service"

Summary

As can be seen from the results from the image 14. The service passed all checks of handling requests under the threshold that was set at 1.5 s with an average of 22.37 ms for the duration of handling requests.

Stage 3 results

Image 15: "Results of stage 3 load testing on the medicine inventory service"

Summary

As can be seen from the results from the image 15. The service passed all checks of handling requests under the threshold that was set at 1.5 s with an average of 36.35 ms for the duration of handling requests.

Stress Testing

Context

Here we will be using stress testing to assess the availability and stability of the system under heavy load.

The purpose of performing the stress test is to find out what happens when pushing the performance limits of the system. Further, it is to help/prove if they system is configured to auto-scale when the load increases and to look for any failures during scaling events.

Scenario

A scenario to where a stress can occur to the system is for instance an outbreak to where medicine would have or can be tracked by multiple users.

We will be increasing the load of users by 100 every 2 minutes and will at this each level for 5 min. further, a recovery stage has been included to where users gradually decreases to 0.

Virtual Users (VU) chart



Image 16: "Virtual User Chart of the Stress Test"

The VU chart of the stress test that will be used for the service should look similar to image 16.

We will be creating and testing the 3 set stages of load tests on the medicine inventory service and not the user medicine inventory service of the care web application due time limitation.

Medicine Service

For the medicine service we will be testing how the service handles a high amount of requests under a short amount of time.

Image 17: "Results of stage 2 load testing on the medicine inventory service"

We will be testing the service twice to compare the difference between how big the request is. The first test will test a request with one medicine created as shown in image 17.

Image 18: "Results of stage 2 load testing on the medicine inventory service"

And the second test will test a request holding 10 registered medicines as shown in image 18.

Scenario

The test is based on how the service can handle a heavy amount of request under a short amount of time. We will be using the get request of this endpoint http://20.103.147.242/medicines to retrieve all registered medicines in the system.

Image 19: "stress test that will be tested on the medicine inventory service"

The set criteria can be seen in image 19.

- 1. Below normal load: increasing to 100 users in 2 minutes and holding this for 5 minutes.
- 2. Normal load: increase the amount of users to 200 users in 2 minutes and hold this for another 5 minutes
- 3. Around the breaking point: increase the amount of users to 300 users and holding this for 5 minutes.
- 4. Beyond the breaking point: increasing the amount of users to 400 users and holding for 5 minutes.
- 5. Scaling down / Recovery stage: scaling the amount of users gracefully to 0 users in a span of 10 minutes.

Summary / Results of Scaling for a request holding one registered medicine

We will be examining if the service scales when the amount of CPU increases over the set CPU usage for one pod. We will be assessing each target of virtual users to examine the CPU usage of the service pod.

Start

The start of the test we can verify that the there is nothing running in the portal and that the CPU usage is at 0%.

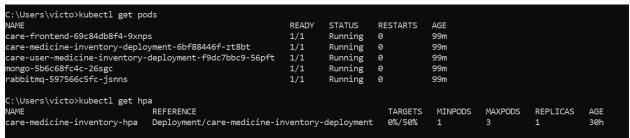


Image 20: "CPU usage and pods running at the start of the stress test"

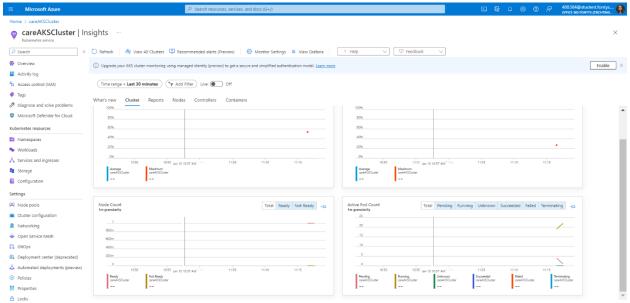


Image 21: "Azure portal insight into before running the stress test"

100 users target

```
running (02m27.0s), 100/400 VUs, 7847 complete and 0 interrupted iterations

default [=>-----0s/38m00.0s
```

Image 22: "current amount of virtual users created"

We can see that when the amount of virtual users is at 100 that the CPU usage is at 16% usage of 1 pod of the medicine inventory service. Where one pod can handle 100 virtual users.

```
C:\Users\victo>kubectl get hpa
                                                                                          TARGETS
                                                                                                     MINPODS
                                                                                                                            REPLICAS
are-medicine-inventory-hpa
                                 Deployment/care-medicine-inventory-deployment
                                                                                          16%/50%
 :\Users\victo>kubectl get pods
                                                                  READY
care-frontend-69c84db8f4-9xnps
                                                                            Running
                                                                                                    111m
care-medicine-inventory-deployment-6bf88446f-zt8bt
care-user-medicine-inventory-deployment-f9dc7bbc9-56pft
                                                                                                    111m
                                                                            Running
                                                                                                    111m
                                                                  1/1
                                                                            Running
  ngo-5b6c68fc4c-26sgc
                                                                                                    111m
                                                                            Running
                                                                            Running
 abbitmq-597566c5fc-jsnns
                                                                                                    111m
```

Image 23: "CPU usage and pods running at 100 virtual users of the stress test"

200 users target

```
running (09m00.9s), 200/400 VUs, 51371 complete and 0 interrupted iterations
default [======>>--------] 200/400 VUs 09m00.9s/38m00.0s
```

Image 24: "current amount of virtual users created"

We can see that when the amount of virtual users is at 200 that the CPU usage is at 38% usage of 1 pod of the medicine inventory service. Which is double the amount from the CPU usage at 200 users. We can also conclude that one pod of the service can handle 200 virtual users for this request.

```
:\Users\victo>kubectl get pods
                                                          READY
                                                                  STATUS
                                                                            RESTARTS
care-frontend-69c84db8f4-9xnps
                                                          1/1
                                                                  Running
                                                                                        118m
care-medicine-inventory-deployment-6bf88446f-zt8bt
                                                          1/1
                                                                  Running
                                                                                        118m
care-user-medicine-inventory-deployment-f9dc7bbc9-56pft
                                                                                        118m
                                                          1/1
                                                                  Running
ongo-5b6c68fc4c-26sgc
                                                                  Running
abbitmq-597566c5fc-jsnns
                                                          1/1
                                                                  Running
C:\Users\victo>kubectl get hpa
REFERENCE
                                                                                        MINPODS
                                                                                                   MAXPODS
                                                                               TARGETS
                                                                                                             REPLICAS
                                                                                                                        AGE
are-medicine-inventory-hpa Deployment/care-medicine-inventory-deployment
                                                                                                                         30h
```

Image 25: "CPU usage and pods running at 200 virtual users of the stress test"

300 users target

```
running (17m07.7s), 300/400 VUs, 160182 complete and 0 interrupted iterations
default [============>------] 300/400 VUs 17m07.7s/38m00.0s
```

Image 26: "current amount of virtual users created"

We can see that when the amount of virtual users is at 300 that the CPU usage is at 49% usage of 1 pod of the medicine inventory service. At this point we can say that the service can handle around 300 users for this certain request based on the CPU usage shown in image 27. We can predict that for more users that the pod should scale to handle more users.

Image 27: "CPU usage and pods running at 300 virtual users of the stress test"

400 users target

```
running (23m13.4s), 400/400 VUs, 273669 complete and 0 interrupted iterations default [==================>-----] 400/400 VUs 23m13.4s/38m00.0s
```

Image 28: "current amount of virtual users created"

We can verify the prediction made by the target amount of users of 300 that the medicine inventory service pod has scaled to two pods to handle more virtual users. In image 29 we can see that there are two replicas of the pod and that they are both up and running.

```
:\Users\victo>kubectl get hpa
                                         REFERENCE
                                                                                                            TARGETS
48%/50%
                                                                                                                          MINPODS
                                                                                                                                        MAXPODS
                                                                                                                                                      REPLICAS
are-medicine-inventory-hpa Deployment/care-medicine-inventory-deployment
:\Users\victo>kubectl get pods
                                                                                                         RESTARTS
                                                                                READY
                                                                                                                         AGE
are-frontend-69c84db8f4-7c6gq
                                                                                            Running
are-medicine-inventory-deployment-6bf88446f-dhvv2
are-medicine-inventory-deployment-6bf88446f-m9khp
are-user-medicine-inventory-deployment-f9dc7bbc9-nctx5
                                                                                           Running
                                                                                                                         32m
                                                                                           Running
                                                                                                                         32m
ongo-5b6c68fc4c-hqzdp
abbitmq-597566c5fc-qgnfq
                                                                                                                         32m
```

Image 29: "CPU usage and pods running at 400 virtual users of the stress test"

Conclusion / End Results

Image 30: "Results of the stress test"

We can conclude that the medicine service inventory on Azure Kubernetes can scale based on the requests used for the maximum of 400 users.

Out of the 503248 requests made, did only 4 requests failed. Further was the average duration of a request 21.7 ms which is acceptable for the stress test.

Summary / Results of Scaling for a request holding ten registered medicine

We will be examining if the service scales when the amount of CPU increases over the set CPU usage for one pod and can handle a request with 10 register medicines. We will be assessing each target of virtual users to examine the CPU usage of the service pod.

Start

The start of the test we can verify that the there is nothing running in the portal and that the CPU usage is at 0%

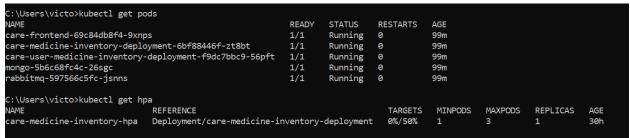


Image 31: "CPU usage and pods running at the start of the stress test"

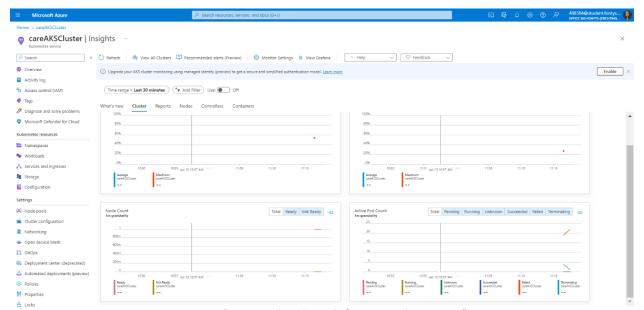


Image 32: "Azure portal insight into before running the stress test"

100 users target

```
running (02m00.8s), 100/400 VUs, 5926 complete and 0 interrupted iterations default [=>-----] 100/400 VUs 02m00.8s/38m00.0s
```

Image 33: "current amount of virtual users created"

We can see that when the amount of virtual users is at 100 that the CPU usage is at 20% usage of 1 pod of the medicine inventory service. Where one pod can handle 100 virtual users with a request of 10 registered medicines.

```
C:\Users\victo>kubectl get hpa
                              REFERENCE
                                                                               TARGETS
                                                                                         MINPODS
                                                                                                   MAXPODS
                                                                                                              REPLICAS
                                                                                                                         AGE
care-medicine-inventory-hpa
                             Deployment/care-medicine-inventory-deployment
C:\Users\victo>kubectl get pods
                                                           READY
                                                                   STATUS
                                                                             RESTARTS
                                                                                        AGE
care-frontend-69c84db8f4-7c6gq
                                                                   Running
                                                                                        123m
care-medicine-inventory-deployment-6bf88446f-dhvv2
                                                                   Running
                                                                             0
                                                                                        123m
care-user-medicine-inventory-deployment-f9dc7bbc9-nctx5
                                                                   Running
                                                                             0
                                                                                        123m
 ongo-5b6c68fc4c-hazdp
                                                           1/1
                                                                   Running
                                                                             0
                                                                                        123m
 abbitmq-597566c5fc-qgnfq
                                                                   Running
                                                           1/1
                                                                                        123m
```

Image 34: "CPU usage and pods running at 100 virtual users of the stress test"

200 users target

```
Li
running (09m00.5s), 200/400 VUs, 52799 complete and 0 interrupted iterations
default [======>------] 200/400 VUs 09m00.5s/38m00.0s
```

Image 35: "current amount of virtual users created"

We can see that when the amount of virtual users is at 200 that the CPU usage is at 41% usage of 1 pod of the medicine inventory service. Which is more than the CPU usage for a request with 1 registered medicine. Nonetheless, we can also conclude that one pod of the service can handle 200 virtual users for this request.

```
\Users\victo>kubectl get pods
                                                                  STATUS
                                                          READY
                                                                            RESTARTS
                                                                                       AGE
care-frontend-69c84db8f4-7c6gq
                                                                                        129m
                                                          1/1
                                                                  Running
are-medicine-inventory-deployment-6bf88446f-dhvv2
                                                          1/1
                                                                  Running
are-user-medicine-inventory-deployment-f9dc7bbc9-nctx5
                                                                  Running
                                                                  Running
ongo-5b6c68fc4c-hqzdp
                                                          1/1
abbitmq-597566c5fc-qgnfq
                                                          1/1
                                                                  Running
                                                                            a
                                                                                        129m
::\Users\victo>kubectl get hpa
                             REFERENCE
                                                                                        MINPODS
                                                                                                  MAXPODS
                                                                                                             REPLICAS
are-medicine-inventory-hpa
                             Deployment/care-medicine-inventory-deployment 41%/50%
```

Image 36: "CPU usage and pods running at 200 virtual users of the stress test"

300 users target

```
running (16m04.7s), 300/400 VUs, 141607 complete and 0 interrupted iterations default [==========>------] 300/400 VUs 16m04.7s/38m00.0s
```

Image 37: "current amount of virtual users created"

We can see that when the amount of virtual users is at 300 that the CPU usage is at 66% usage of 1 pod of the medicine inventory service which is over the registered amount of CPU usage per pod. Here can requests take longer than expected or fail. We will see the outcome at the end of the test.

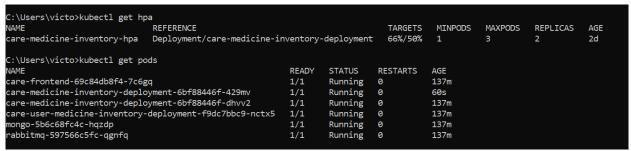


Image 38: "CPU usage and pods running at 300 virtual users of the stress test"

400 users target

```
running (23m03.1s), 400/400 VUs, 269325 complete and 0 interrupted iterations
default [==================>-------] 400/400 VUs 23m03.1s/38m00.0s
```

Image 39: "current amount of virtual users created"

We can see that the amount of CPU usage has decreased with an added pod to the medicine inventory service.

C:\Users\victo>kubectl get hp NAME care-medicine-inventory-hpa	oa REFERENCE Deployment/care-medicine-ir	nventory-	-deployment	TARGETS 40%/50%	MINPODS 1	MAXPODS 3	REPLICAS 2	AGE 2d	
C:\Users\victo>kubectl get pods									
NAME		READY	STATUS	RESTARTS	AGE				
care-frontend-69c84db8f4-7c6gq		1/1	Running	0	144m				
care-medicine-inventory-deployment-6bf88446f-429mv		1/1	Running	0	7m37s				
care-medicine-inventory-deployment-6bf88446f-dhvv2		1/1	Running	0	144m				
care-user-medicine-inventory-deployment-f9dc7bbc9-nctx5		1/1	Running	0	144m				
mongo-5b6c68fc4c-hqzdp		1/1	Running	0	144m				
rabbitmq-597566c5fc-qgnfq		1/1	Running	0	144m				

Image 40: "CPU usage and pods running at 400 virtual users of the stress test"

Conclusion / End Results

Image 41: "Results of the stress test"

We can conclude that the medicine service inventory on Azure Kubernetes can scale based on the requests used for the maximum of 400 users.

Out of the 502535 requests made, did only 10 requests failed. Further was the average duration of a request 23.5 ms which is acceptable for the stress test.

Comparison between amount of registered medicines of a request

Comparing the stress test on a request with 1 registered medicine to a request with 10 registered medicines we can say that there are more fails with the request of 10 registered medicines with also a longer average duration.

Therefor, the make fact of the assumption made that more registered medicines will take longer and more CPU usage where how bigger the amount of storage, how more storage has to be made on Azure Kubernetes to handle larger amounts of requests.

Soak Testing

Context

Here we will be using soak testing to assess the reliability of the system over a longer period of time. The purpose of performing the soak test is to find out performance and reliability issues stemming from the system from being under pressure for an extended period.

These issues typically include bugs, memory leaks, insufficient storage quotas, incorrect configuration or infrastructure failures.

With the help of a soak test, days' worth of traffic can be simulated into only a few hours.

Test Case

It is recommended to configure the soak test to about 80% capacity of the service. If the service can handle a maximum of 500 users, then would the configure amount of users be set to 400 users which is what we will be tested on the medicine inventory service.

```
export const options = {

stages: [

{ duration: '2m', target: 400 }, // ramp up to 400 users

{ duration: '3h56m', target: 400 }, // stay at 400 for ~4 hours

{ duration: '2m', target: 0 }, // scale down. (optional)

],

};
```

Image 42: "Set target virtual users for the Soak Test"

The test will be started at 0 users and will increase to 400 users within a span of 2 minutes. The amount of users will stay at 400 for 4 hours to examine the performance of the service. Lastly, the service will scale down the amount of users to 0 in a span of 0 users.

Virtual Users (VU) chart

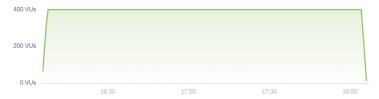


Image 43: "Virtual User Chart of the Soak Test"

The VU chart of the soak test that will be used for the service should look similar to image 43.

We will be creating and testing a soak test on the medicine inventory of the care web application for the purpose understanding and trying out the test. The reason there is no test for the user medicine inventory test is due to how long the test takes which will cost on Azure and to the priority of the other tests being completed and tested on the services.

Medicine Service

Scenario

The test is based on how the service can handle requests over a long period of time with a good amount of users. We will be using the get request of this endpoint http://20.103.147.242/medicines to retrieve all registered medicines.

Summary

Image 44: "Results of the Soak Test tested on the medicine inventory service"

To summarize, from running the soak test against the medicine inventory service we can see that from the 5489974 requests sent, 17 have failed (under http_req_failed).

During and after the process of running the test was the service still up, running and working. To conclude from running the soak test can it be said that the service can handle a long period of time of users sending requests and that there were no interruptions made to the service.

Sources

k6 Documentation. (n.d.-a). https://k6.io/docs/

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