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CS Assignment:

Report on MS Build 2017

On the first day of Microsoft’s 2017 build event, Microsoft revealed several fascinating features regarding upcoming software, the future of technology, and the direction that the company itself is heading towards. For software, Microsoft showed off how Azure is bringing multi-device accessibility to a new level. Furthermore with Azure’s new database management, users will be able to easily port over existing databases into Azure to receive amazing never before seen options. In addition, Microsoft announced the release of several applications such as Visual Studios for Macs and Azure for mobile phones. On the technology side, Microsoft showcased many state of the art ideas that could level the playing field significantly. Microsoft started off by highlighting occupational safety driven by artificial intelligence which is capable of monitoring, updating, and reacting to workplace dangers or issues. In addition, Microsoft showed how electronics can be used to assist individuals living with Parkinson’s disease and open imaginations using combinations of virtual reality and cognitive services. Finally, Microsoft expressed its stance as a company that exists to assist and empower the use of technology, development, and maintenance.

As Microsoft continued the 2017 build presentation, the number of ways to apply Azure began to appear nearly unlimited. In the future, software running on the Azure cloud will be able to be ported and run natively on a device or system. It was explained during the event that having a device run software such as diagnostics can drastically increase the rate of response to any situations that may arise. In my opinion, having the local device constantly run software could improve bandwidth usage versus pinging the Azure cloud for packets. Nevertheless, Microsoft did not disclose several key details regarding the process of porting applications from Azure to a local device. During the demonstration, it appeared to be as simple as merely requesting packages from Azure. However, it would seem foolish to assume that no implementation is required from the client and that all previous applications which operate on Azure will retroactively be compatible with packaging. The use, advantages, and disadvantages of having Azure programs execute on a local device is definitely one of the most interesting topics from the event.

In the industrial field, Azure’s new services was boasted to provide the means to enable companies to take their brands to the next level. Using Azure, organizations will be able to significantly increase safety in the workforce by harnessing sophisticated artificial intelligence and image recognition. By combining imagery, artificial intelligence, and properly assigning policies, clients will be able to stay informed of numerous situations such as illegal use of equipment, the location of people or objects, and the overall state of the workplace. Although the notion of having a competent artificial intelligence supervising or preventing any accidents that might occur, the issue that mass recordings of businesses or information could be potentially leaked is unsettling. Nevertheless with any moral circumstances aside, the optimism that human lives could be saved thanks to new monitoring systems is very admirable.

From an office or economical perspective, Azure’s databases will empower companies to effectively improve the way they manage and collect data. Microsoft announced that Azure’s database can receive imports from numerous existing databases such as DocumentDB, MongoDB, or Gremlin. Furthermore, the databases provided by Azure can be readily scaled to meet the data requirements of any organization. In addition, Azure databases possess the ability to quickly update databases around the global whenever information needs to be modified. Azure databases also hosts the unique option of allow the client to select a spectrum of global database upload settings which can prioritize accuracy or speed. In my opinion, Azure’s ability to support an array of existing databases definitely helps it secure a position as a major player in the database industry. During company mergers or large scale changes, I believed that Azure databases would be vital in managing any databases that need to have convergence.

Cognitive Services is another artificial intelligence that Microsoft is developing. Cognitive Services hosts support for several recognition patterns such as speech, images, search, and more. In particular, Microsoft showcased a virtual reality demonstration game titled Starship Commander. The game uses language processing to enable the player to interact with computer controlled players and the virtual reality environment like never before. Starship Commander is a choose your own adventure game that allows the player to hold unique conversations with NPCS, give commands to open hatches, shoot at enemy fighters, or decide the path that the game will follow. Although I remained skeptical regarding the true openness of the game. Nevertheless, it is possible that Starship Commander is the first step in creating a new genre of truly unique and unscripted digital universes and stories. Despite my normally unwavering deposition, I did hope that Starship Commander can take games in a direction that everyone has at least once dreamed could be possible.

In the end, I hoped to keep up to date with future builds that Microsoft will perform. I was thankful that Microsoft pushed their message that they remained focused on improving the developer’s experience during development, maintenance, and education. Although I was unsure how accessible any of the features presented at the event were, I planned to eventually use or learn more about several topics discussed at the event. Finally, I remained optimistic as I looked forward to seeing the results of Azure packaging, databases, artificial intelligence, and virtual reality. The next big thing could be closer than I realized.