Through the past 10 weeks, I have created demonstrations for a variety of different technologies that support a modern web application.

One area which I believe was the most advantageous was learning to leverage Amazon Web Services. In my career thus far, I have only had the opportunity to utilize Microsoft Azure, so getting to work with another platform both enables me to gain a deeper understanding of cloud technologies as well as build a foundation to broaden my toolset when approaching a problem. Outside of cloud computing, I already had some professional experience building containerized microservices for configuration driven network automation tools, so I think the biggest area I have to improve upon is Golang itself. Through every course I find myself appreciating the language more and more, but it’s difficult to incorporate into projects that have multiple developers as I don’t find it to be a commonly known language. I definitely want to utilize GitHub actions moving forward as it clearly is a valuable tool for continuous integration, and I can see myself using it for linting and enforcing other commit checks.

Through each of the discussion boards, one similarity I noticed was that most students opted to use AWS rather than GCP. I assume this is likely because people are more familiar with AWS as it is the most widely used cloud computing service, but I also do find GCP to be a little confusing with their UI which could be a factor. One difference I identified between my application and my peers was that I found myself running into difficulty a few times trying to navigate AWS’ IAM whereas that did not appear to be a problem for most other students (or at least they didn’t address it). I think this was mostly my fault though because I wasn’t destroying and recreating instances, workspaces, etc. as was recommended. I opted to terminate resources when I finished developing and restart them the following week for the next set of assignments.

Specifically for the weekly demonstration videos, I did not find myself receiving significant feedback. I would chalk this up to being able to follow along with a tutorial so nearly everyone was able to produce the same application week after week. However, when I did run into any issues as previously mentioned, both peers and instructors were quick to respond to my post and offer feedback and support which I appreciated.

Overall, I enjoyed taking this course and would definitely recommend it to students who want to learn more about building containerized applications using the cloud.