



The Cloud Integration Offer

Reflection

**Bachelor in Applied IT
Application Development**

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2 TERMS TO UNDERSTAND

Since I will be talking briefly about the task itself, I will give a list of terms to understand.

2.1 ID

= Integration Designers: the place of my internship

2.2 Integration

A concept within IT that takes care of the communication between nodes. When talking about integrations, these are applications that manage communication.

2.3 Deploying

delivering an application to the client. This also covers updates.

2.4 OpenShift

This is the deployment platform we used. OpenShift is Kubernetes based and provides a lot of help with the entire process.

2.5 IBM ACE

= app connect enterprise: One of IBM's integration tools.

2.6 Azure cloud

I created an OpenShift environment on Azure cloud which is just the cloud platform we chose for this P.o.C.

2.7 ArgoCD

the pipelining tool I worked with for my P.o.C. (pipelining is used to deploy applications automatically).

3 INTRODUCTION

I will be reflecting on my internship experience in this document. I will be discussing what I have learned during the past few months, the value I have brought to [Integration Designers](#), and what I plan to do with this experience.

Although this reflection is from my point of view, I have also consulted with my mentor and leader at ID. So, when I talk about the value I have brought to ID, it is based on their feedback.

To make it easier for you to understand, I have included a small list of terms that you can refer to if needed. However, you don't need to understand these terms to comprehend the document itself.

4 REFLECTING ON MY INTERNSHIP

4.1 My task.

I completed a project with two distinct parts - a technical side and a pitch for the idea.

To make it more concrete. I created a Proof of Concept to proof the idea of going to the cloud with the [integrations](#) within an organization. Afterwards, I was tasked with creating a pitch to present my idea. This experience allowed me to grow as an IT student and gave me insights into sales and further developed my presentation skills.

Now, to explain the technical aspect of the project, I created an integration with one of the IBM tools for integration called [ACE](#). I then created a repository with its make-up file, followed by creating a pipeline that automatically [deploys](#) the application on [OpenShift](#). Lastly, I created a pipeline that deploys the application on a cloud-based cluster, specifically on [Azure](#).

4.2 Its value.

To Integration Designers, I created an offer that could be presented to clients. Additionally, I used a new pipelining tool during my proof of concept, which my colleagues were not familiar with. Within ID, it is customary to create tutorials on helpful technologies that could be beneficial to our colleagues. Therefore, I created tutorials on all the new technologies and tools that I worked with during my internship. This gives my peers a head start in the future. I repeated this process for multiple steps of my internship, which can be seen in the realization document.

4.3 My roadblocks.

As my assigned task was not related to my academic background, it was expected that I would need to spend time studying and understanding everything before I could start working on it. Therefore, my first challenge was to learn how to work with documentation, find valuable information, and process it. This was not an obstacle, but it did take a significant amount of time, and I am still improving in this area.

My next challenge was working with [ArgoCD](#), which is a relatively young tool that I was allowed to work with as a first among my colleagues. However, since it is quite a new tool, some of its features have bugs when used. For instance, even though I had synced all files, ArgoCD would still give an "out of sync" header. This was because the file that I created to produce a resource was always different from the code when that resource was created. Some parts of the code, such as the time and date of creation, could not be added to the code that ArgoCD uses because it would cause errors. To address this issue, ArgoCD has a feature to ignore certain differences between the given code and the actual code. However, it does not work in all cases. Overall, this was the only significant obstacle I encountered during my internship. However, this would not have been my only obstacle if I was not so fortunate to have an exceptional team around me who were always ready to help when needed.

4.4 The Future.

Although the idea has been created and proven, there are still some details that need to be fixed, such as bugs within ArgoCD that make it look as if the application is not synced properly. However, this does not mean that the idea is not useful.

ID can now present a new idea to clients and work out a personal plan with them. I have also worked out the pricing of the idea and compared it to other methods since I created a presentation. All the tutorials and the presentation combined, have many different parts that are useful for my colleagues' future endeavors, even though they are not being used in their entirety.

4.5 My words to Integration Designers.

Firstly, I would like to express my gratitude towards my mentor, Kim Meynendonckx, who has taught me a lot during my internship. He was always patient with me, ensured that I felt comfortable, and created a balance between work-related discussions and casual conversations. Although he was approachable, it did not mean that I could slack off. I had my deadlines and tasks to complete, and I was expected to deliver them on time.

I cannot imagine doing my internship anywhere else. The confidence that I gained from working there was very rewarding, and it gave me a healthy pressure to work under. The tasks assigned to me were quite challenging, especially since I had no prior experience in integration or deployment. However, I received help whenever I needed it, and most importantly, I was given the time and tools to figure things out on my own. I felt like an integral part of the team, and my contributions were valued. I am grateful for the chance that the team gave me, and I will never forget it.

4.6 What has it all meant to me?

As I mentioned earlier, I have gained a lot of experience in IT and the skill of presenting through my internship. I believe that internships should help you improve in your chosen field, and my interest lies in the representation aspect of IT. I enjoy talking to people and demonstrating the value of a product. Furthermore, because I was the one who created the product that I presented, it became something that I am passionate about.

I was trusted with developing the product idea and given the opportunity to present it. These were my first steps into sales, and it was an amazing experience. I learned a lot about presenting, including the preparation and delivery aspects. I discovered what is important to show, what I should have on standby, and what statistics audiences appreciate. I never imagined that this part of my task would receive the most feedback. Integration designers took this part as seriously as the technical side, and it showed me that they care. I am grateful to them for teaching me, allowing me to teach others, and setting high standards for both me and my peers. Thank you for the opportunity.

4.7 What's to come.

Although I really enjoyed my internship at ID, I have decided to follow my gut feeling and pursue a completely different path. I am planning to study in the fields of psychology and philosophy to explore my interests in humans and self-discovery.

Before the internship, I would have never considered the IT world as an option for me. I followed this academic option to add value to myself and give me a head start in a world that is rapidly digitalizing. But these past months have showed me that this kind of life is something that I can and should surely consider. Working alongside the specialists at Integration Designers has shown me that it is still a viable career path. And who knows, maybe I will find my way back to it in the future. But for now, I believe that my path leads me in a different direction, and I am excited to see what this new chapter holds for me.