Cloud-Native Gauntlet: Your Two-Week Ordeal

Dear Delusional Adventurers,

So you thought LPIC 1xx was "hard"? That was baby Linux with juice boxes and time , and a coloring book Now staring you down like an angry sysadmin with root privileges are LPIC 2xx CKAD and AWS Cloud Practitioner . These aren't exams—they're life insurance checks waiting to bounce.

But why give you 2 weeks of peace \odot when I can serve you suffering on a silver platter 2 Behold, **The Cloud-Native Gauntlet** 3 the challenge nobody asked for but everybody deserves.

Your mission (not optional 😭:

- Build, from scratch, a full-stack cloud-native monstrosity 💝
- Run it **entirely on your local machine !!**, because cloud is for amateurs.
- **Offline mode only** —because if you can't survive without StackOverflow, maybe you shouldn't exist.
- Must be **idempotent **—aka "run again until it stops crying."

This thing should:\ Make Kubernetes weep (1) Make Docker question its career (2) Make your laptop beg for early retirement (4)

Will you suffer? Oh yes Will you regret your choices? 100% But if you somehow crawl out alive , hopped up on caffeine and sheer spite then—and only then—you may challenge the mighty LPIC 2xx, CKAD, and AWS Cloud Practitioner.

Fail, and the GIS gods 😿 are merciless. No retries. No Ctrl+Z. Just eternal shame 👁.

So grab your kubect1 hear you scream . hear you scream . no one can hear you scream .

Objective

You, alone (no collaboration, no crying on Discord), must:

- Write a **Rust** web application (todo app, cat meme shrine, or any API that makes sense). Backend must support JWT auth, talk to Postgres, and expose endpoints.
- Use **Postgres** for persistence, deployed via the **CloudNativePG operator**.
- Secure everything with **Keycloak**, enforcing token validation.
- Deploy it all to K3s, running on local VMs with Vagrant or Multipass.

- Provision infra with Terraform and configure with Ansible. Scripts must be idempotent.
- Package the app with **Docker** and load images into an **offline local registry**.
- Use **Kubernetes manifests** (ConfigMaps, Secrets, Deployments, Services, Ingress).
- Implement a **GitOps pipeline** using [**Gitea** or **GitHub**] + Actions or ArgoCD.
- Mesh services with Linkerd, gain observability and mTLS.
- Document it all with **Mermaid diagrams** (architecture, pipeline, auth flow).

All of this offline. No cloud. You vs. the void.

The Twelve Trials (2–4h per day)

Day 1-2: Summon the Cluster Beasts

- Spin up local VMs: Use Vagrant or Multipass to create 1–2 VMs.
- **Provision infra:** Use Terraform + Ansible to install base packages.
- Install K3s: Deploy a lightweight Kubernetes cluster.
- Offline prep: Configure local DNS/hosts.
- Pre-pull images: Keycloak, CNPG, Gitea, Linkerd, app base images.
- Local registry: (Optional) set up a registry offline.

Day 3-4: Forge Your Application

- Build a Rust API: Choose Actix, Axum, or Rocket.
- **Define models:** At least two entities (e.g., User and Task).
- Implement endpoints: Create/list tasks, with authentication guards.
- Integrate DB layer: Use Diesel or SQLx.
- Local test: Run app with a local Postgres container.

Day 5: Containerize Your Pain

- Dockerfile magic: Multi-stage build (builder + runtime).
- Build & test: Build image and run locally.
- Registry push: Push/import to registry.

Day 6-7: Database & Deployment

- Deploy CNPG: Install operator.
- Create DB cluster: Write CRD for Postgres.
- Secrets setup: Store DB credentials.
- **App Deployment:** Write Deployment + Service.
- ConfigMaps: Provide configs.
- Ingress: Expose app.
- Validation: Confirm persistence.

Day 8: Bow Before Keycloak

• Deploy Keycloak: With storage.

- Expose service: Ingress at keycloak.local.
- Configure realm: Create a realm.
- Add client: Define credentials + URIs.
- Add user: Create test user.
- Integrate app: Validate JWTs.
- Test flow: Acquire token and call endpoints.

Day 9-10: Embrace the GitOps Curse

- Install Gitea: Expose via gitea.local.
- Repos setup: Create app-source + infra.
- Version control: Commit + push.
- CI pipeline: Actions or Drone CI.
- CD pipeline: ArgoCD syncs infra repo.
- End-to-end test: Push → build → deploy.

Day 11: Enter the Mesh

- Install Linkerd: Deploy + check.
- Namespace injection: Annotate for sidecars.
- Redeploy app: Ensure injection.
- Observability: Use linkerd viz.
- mTLS: Confirm encrypted traffic.

Day 12: Write Your Epic

- Create README: Write docs.
- Mermaid diagrams: Arch, pipeline, auth.
- **Infra story:** Terraform \rightarrow Ansible \rightarrow K3s.
- Idempotence note: Proof of reruns.
- How-to guide: Repro from scratch.
- · Comic relief: YAML jokes.

Victory Conditions

- Entire system runs offline.
- Infra + configs are idempotent.
- · GitOps works.
- · Keycloak protects app.
- · Linkerd meshes.
- Docs + diagrams included.

Finish everything. No shortcuts. No mercy.



This is not a cozy group project . Each of you must **suffer alone** . staring at logs like hieroglyphics . See, you can customize —but all requirements must be met. No excuses . .

When (if) you crawl out , you'll have scars . PTSD from docker ps , and hatred of indentation errors respected by Python devs .

That hatred fuels victory. Enough to conquer LPIC 2xx, CKAD, and maybe the mythical Carrie Anne Certification. Now go . May your YAMLs align, may your pods stay Running, and may you forever remember:

kubectl describe .