Background

Wednesday, April 3, 2019   4:39 AM

Why pursue additional skills now?
- We are currently deciding what the next iteration of our architecture will be
- Data Engineering is a quickly developing field
- TDS is in the middle of a major IT transformation, so having more recent education would be helpful
- Major data initiatives are expected to land in the near future (Data Catalog / Data Lake) so I would like to be prepared

Why the Udacity Program?
- Members of the team have had good (and bad) experiences, however mine was very positive when I studied data analysis a few years ago.
- The program is project based which makes it more like a professional experience than traditional academics
- The technologies in the program are ones that we are considering (AWS, Spark, Airflow etc.)
- The taming lined up well (5 month program) with other TDS initiatives
- Weekly time commitment of 5-10 hours seemed reasonable

How has the format changed?
- The program used to be totally self-paced, with mentorship for the first project
- Now it has a hard deadline (5 months with about a month of fudge time) built in
- Mentorship has been pushed a lot more
  - Start and end dates mean you can effectively have cohorts in the same program
  - Weekly curriculum overview
  - Discussion sessions (aka ama)
  - 1 on 1 weekly touchpoints