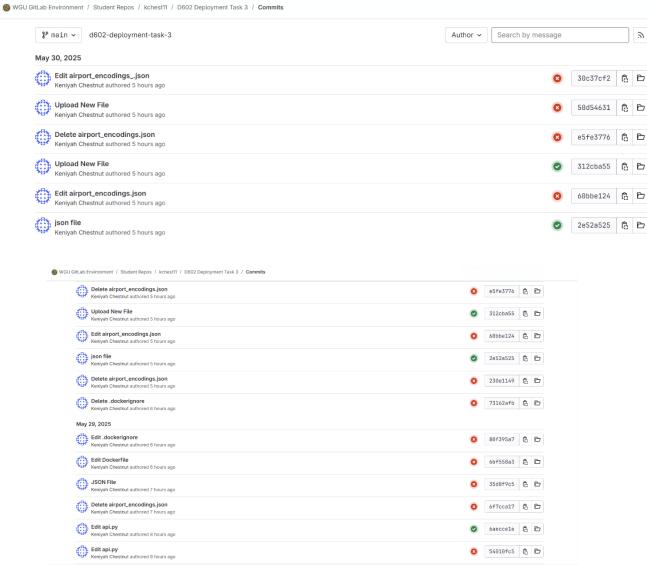
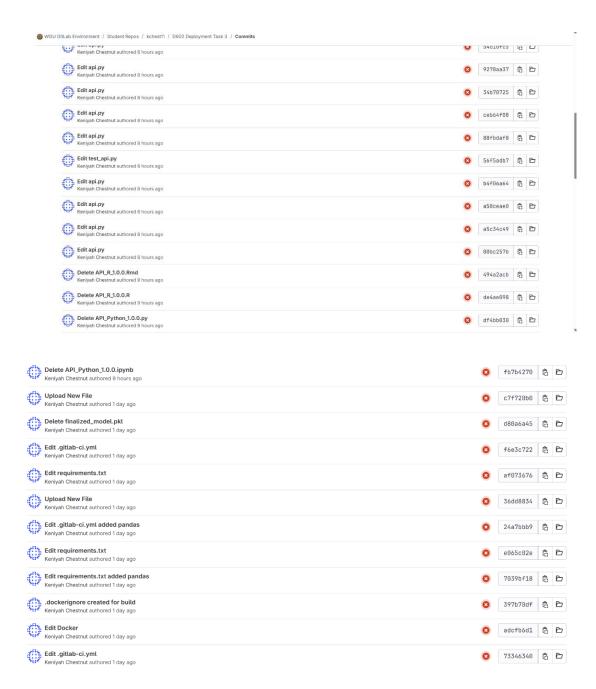
Task 3:

Program Deployment
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Deployment - D602

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# A. GitLab Repository







### E. Explanation of Code and Challenges Encountered

# 1. Initial API Design

I began by structuring the FastAPI application based on the example provided in the course. The app exposes two endpoints:

- A root endpoint ("/") used to confirm the API is live.
- A "/predict/delays" endpoint that accepts query parameters to return a delay prediction.

```
@app.get("/predict/delays")
def predict_delays(departure_airport: str, arrival_airport: str, departure_time: int, arrival_time: int):
    try:
        if arrival_airport.upper() not in airport_encodings:
            raise HTTPException(status_code=400, detail="Invalid arrival airport code")

# One-hot encode the arrival airport
    num_airports = len(airport_encodings)
    airport_vector = np.zeros(num_airports)
    airport_index = airport_encodings[arrival_airport.upper()]
    airport_vector[airport_index] = 1
```

### 2. Model Loading and Encoding Logic

To make predictions, I used joblib.load() to load the trained model stored as finalized\_model.pkl.

I also loaded airport\_encodings.json to one-hot encode the arrival airport using the following

logic:

```
3 # Load model and airport encodings
4 model = joblib.load("finalized_model.pkl")
5 with open("airport_encodings.json") as f:
6 airport_encodings = json.load(f)
7
```

The one-hot encoded vector was concatenated with time-based features to match the input format expected by the model.

# 3. Input Formatting and Error Handling

I used the pydantic library to define expected input parameters using a BaseModel. I also added error handling for cases where an invalid arrival airport code is entered, which returns a clear HTTP 400 error.

```
class DelayRequest(BaseModel):
    departure_airport: str
    arrival_airport: str
    departure_time: int
    arrival_time: int
```

### 4. Deployment with Docker

I created a Dockerfile to containerize the FastAPI application and listed all dependencies in a requirements.txt file. During the Docker build process, I encountered an error related to a missing file.

After investigating, I realized that the .dockerignore file was excluding .json files from the build context. Since airport\_encodings.json was necessary for the model to function properly, I resolved the issue by deleting the .dockerignore file entirely.





To ensure a clean rebuild after that change, I used:

```
base) C:\Users\marri\d602-deployment-task-3>docker build --no-cache -t my-d602-api .
+] Building 37.4s (12/12) FINISHED
=> [internal] load build definition from Dockerfile
                                                                                                      docker:desktop-linux
=> => transferring dockerfile: 448B
                                                                                                                       0.0s
=> [internal] load metadata for docker.io/library/python:3.10-slim
                                                                                                                       0.7s
=> [internal] load .dockerignore
                                                                                                                       0.0s
=> => transferring context: 2B
                                                                                                                       0.0s
=> [1/7] FROM docker.io/library/python:3.10-slim@sha256:49454d2bf78a48f217eb25ecbcb4b5face313fea6a6e82706465a699
=> => resolve docker.io/library/python:3.10-slim@sha256:49454d2bf78a48f217eb25ecbcb4b5face313fea6a6e82706465a699
                                                                                                                       0.0s
=> [internal] load build context
                                                                                                                       0.0s
=> => transferring context: 144B
                                                                                                                       0.0s
=> CACHED [2/7] WORKDIR /app
                                                                                                                       0.0s
                                                                                                                       0.0s
=> [4/7] COPY finalized_model.pkl .
                                                                                                                       0.0s
   [5/7] COPY airport_encodings.json
                                                                                                                       0.1s
=> [6/7] COPY requirements.txt
=> [7/7] RUN pip install --no-cache-dir -r requirements.txt
=> exporting to image
                                                                                                                      14.5s
                                                                                                                      10.2s
=> => exporting layers
=> => exporting manifest sha256:c3bd025e03c4ac6e005a172a69ac1c27c3452712dc339537880ba725<u>5</u>90d2df9
                                                                                                                       0.05
=> => exporting config sha256:7bea65e0587340faf2b52bff9a7690e637fcbe5621bd6d2056bcfb6b9073bdbd
                                                                                                                       0.0s
=> => exporting attestation manifest sha256:a213b0100ef6899b1bd86fdafc7bdb68212f0f0e98fe5c42c51a242284afb618
                                                                                                                       0.0s
=> => exporting manifest list sha256:0f09f842172f975a78f6ea2e46c6be6414b18807f145fa9f36349695537b538c
                                                                                                                       0.0s
=> => naming to docker.io/library/my-d602-api:latest
                                                                                                                       0.0s
=> => unpacking to docker.io/library/my-d602-api:latest
                                                                                                                       4.2s
|base| C:\Users\marri\d602-deployment-task-3
```

This allowed the build to complete successfully. I then started the container using:

```
(base) C:\Users\marri\d602-deployment-task-3>docker run -p 8000:8000 my-d602-api
INFO: Started server process [1]
INFO: Waiting for application startup.
INFO: Application startup complete.
INFO: Uvicorn running on http://0.0.0.0:8000 (Press CTRL+C to quit)
```

After confirming the API was live, I tested both well-formed and ill-formed requests to validate proper functionality and error handling.

### 5. GitLab CI/CD Pipeline

After fixing the Docker build, I was able to successfully push the container to the GitLab container registry using the provided .gitlab-ci.yml file. At first, I encountered GitLab errors saying my .pkl file or .json file was missing, which I resolved by verifying they were included in the project root and not ignored.

### 6. API Testing

I wrote three test cases using TestClient from fastapi.testclient:

The root endpoint returns a success message.

- A valid prediction request returns a numerical delay.
- An invalid or incomplete request returns an appropriate error message (422 or 500).

```
1 #!/usr/bin/env python
2 # coding: utf-8
 4 from fastapi.testclient import TestClient
5 from api import app # Make sure this matches your actual API file name if different
 7 client = TestClient(app)
9 # Test 1: Root endpoint returns status and message
10 def test_root_endpoint():
      response = client.get("/")
11
12
       assert response.status_code == 200
       assert response.json() == {"message": "API is up and running"}
15 # Test 2: Valid prediction request with numeric airport codes (as used in airport_encodings.json)
16 def test_valid_prediction():
      response = client.get("/predict/delays", params={
        "departure_airport": "10397", # ATL
19
           "arrival_airport": "12451",
           "departure_time": 800,
20
21
           "arrival_time": 1000
      })
22
23
       assert response.status_code == 200
       assert "average_departure_delay_minutes" in response.json()
26 # Test 3: Missing departure_time param should return 422
27 def test_missing_parameters():
      response = client.get("/predict/delays", params={
        "departure_airport": "10397",
"arrival_airport": "12451",
           "arrival_time": 1000 # Missing departure_time
31
32
       assert response.status_code == 422 # Validation error
```

#### 7. Final Validation

I ran the container locally using docker run -p 8000:8000 my-d602-api and confirmed functionality with both well-formatted and ill-formatted requests. One request returned a successful prediction, and others appropriately failed due to missing parameters or invalid codes, meeting the rubric's requirement.

```
(base) C:\Users\marri\d602-deployment-task-3>docker run -p 8000:8000 my-d602-api
INFO: Started server process [1]
INFO: Waiting for application startup.
INFO: Application startup complete.
INFO: Uvicorn running on http://0.0.0.0:8000 (Press CTRL+C to quit)
INFO: 172.17.0.1:40548 - "GET / HTTP/1.1" 200 OK
INFO: 172.17.0.1:41044 - "GET /predict/delays?departure_airport=ATL&arrival_airport=LAX&departure_time=600&arrival_time=800 HTTP/1.1" 200 OK
INFO: 172.17.0.1:55400 - "GET /predict/delays?departure_airport=ATL&arrival_time=800 HTTP/1.1" 422 Unprocessable Entity
```



### **Challenges Addressed**

Most of the challenges I faced were related to Docker and GitLab CI/CD. Specifically:

- The .dockerignore file excluded necessary files like the .json encoding file.
- I initially used airport IATA codes instead of the numeric airport IDs expected by the model.
- Files visible locally did not appear in GitLab's Web IDE, which caused pipeline failures.

By resolving these issues step-by-step, I was able to successfully deploy the API and meet all task requirements.

# References

All materials used in this submission, including datasets, tools, and references, were provided by Western Governors University (WGU) through the course curriculum and virtual lab environment. No external sources were used.