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Introduction

My name is Lizzie and I work for the digital consulting company Cognizant. The company offer IT solutions to clients who want to digitize their business. This can include services like moving their servers to the cloud, remaking their software and being the middle man in connecting clients & external start-up companies. People who join as software developers in the company will be deployed to a client site or an internal team to develop projects. My first project I started on was for a financial client in a pod of 9, with 1 more on shore pod and 4 off shore pods, totalling around 60 people. On a big team of people, I was able to learn and pick up a lot knowledge in a short space of time, and began being able to independently start working on tasks, collaborating with the team and making decisions that would impact the project. I have talked about this project in the document 'External Cognizant Project Portfolio Submission'. After a few months in July, I moved to an internal company project with a much smaller team of 6 people. The team wanted to on board a developer to develop an MVP of a project concept. I worked with 2 members of the team to start from the beginning of creating user stories, paper prototypes of the UI and as I was the only developer, give a technical perspective of the possibilities of the features we could include. I would then independently create the software design and begin creating the application from scratch. I used a Trello board to track my progress which my 2 team members who I was working with would also use to make adjustments where needed when we would do regular reviews of the progress, adhering to an Agile way of working. An exported pdf version of this board can be found as the attachment called 'MVP Task Flow _ Trello'. We decided to use an Agile approach as it was a company normality, I had had experience on previous projects using an Agile approach which worked well and we wanted the team to be able to review regularly and give feedback as the app was mainly to be catered towards them, essentially making the team user testers. This in turn did cause a delay in our initial MVP launch date as we added more backlog from feedback, but it created a better catered user product overall so it was the better decision to use an Agile way of working rather than Waterfall.

Project Overview

My project is a platform to view and search 'solutions'. Solutions are, for example, a piece of software developed by another company that you may want to use in your own project. My platform has many different solutions stored on a database and are then able to be swiped through on a mobile UI and searched on. The team have decided to build this app as they 1; want to have a central database to store all the solutions and track them as an admin system since there is no repository to currently store this, more directed in the style of a website and 2; present these solutions to client facing employees, and eventually clients so they can look at potential solutions they would want to get involved with, this side being additionally in the form of a mobile app to swipe through. The initial solutions presented to them will be newly added and recommended to them based on their field & interests. This gives the finding of solutions to work with more engaging for client facing people and will be able to create a partnership between them quicker and easier. For these ideas, we decided the name 'CONNECT' for the platform would be best suited.

Stakeholders

My team consisted of 7 people when I joined with a further 2 people joining 5 months later. The project consisted of 2 tracks, the physical track and the platform track. The physical track was the team actively engaging collaboration with clients and scale ups, the platform track was the team involved in the app development, myself only being involved in the platform track.

The team members were:

Joris Bouwens – Product Owner (both tracks); created wireframes, user stories, conducted user testing and managed the project

Lisa Tendler – Business Analyst (both tracks); created wireframes, user stories

Alexander Stoeckl - Developer (platform track); joined at later stage to develop front end

Diogo Caraca – Developer (platform track); joined at later stage to develop front end

Natalie Blok, Henrik Engstroem, Jasper Nijdam, Mischa Seitz – Business Consultants (physical track); used and tested the app

Concept, Design and User Story creation

I, Joris and Lisa together wrote the user stories for the MVP and designed the user interfaces using the online tool Miro (Figure 1). I therefore had a say in what features were to be included or excluded due to technical limitations, time etc., which was vital as neither Joris nor Lisa had a technical background. I was able to see things from a business stand point & user experience, which was the main point that we felt would determine the success of the platform. For example, I decided that as the users of the app were primarily going to be internal employees of the company, a single sign on would be needed (Figure 2) as to prevent a user from registering and signing in. This demonstrates a response of the user journey we wanted to fulfil: convenience and ease. After this, Joris and I created a UML diagram show in Figure 4. The circles show which class types we wanted with the different attributes attached to each one, along with different relationship types to connect them all, an example of this being the relation from a Sprint type to Project type called 'resulted_in', meaning a sprint succeeded and moved into a full project.

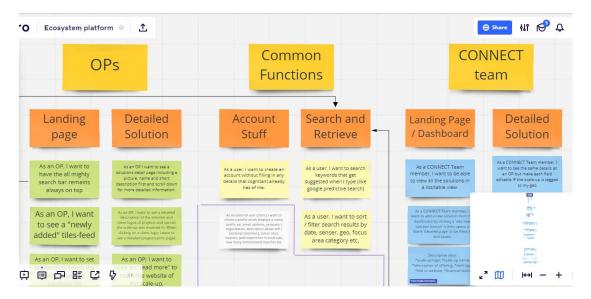


Figure 1 – Part of user story board made using Miro

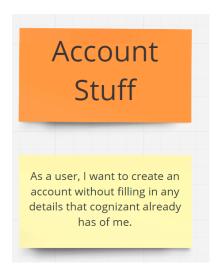


Figure 2 - Close up of user story board

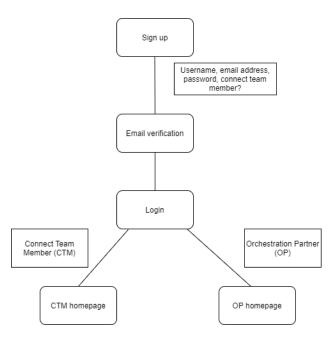


Figure 3 - Activity diagram of user sign up

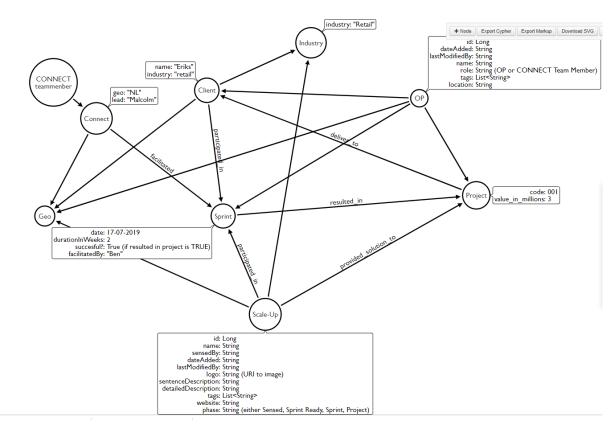


Figure 4 - UML diagram for the initial model & node structure

Tools used

When it came time to start building the app, I needed to decide on what tech stack to use. As this was going to be a web and mobile app, I decided on Java with Spring Boot as a backend, having used it before and being the company standard language. I chose the frontend framework Ionic with Angular as this was framework designed to work as both the web and mobile user interface, meaning there would be no need to create two separate codebases. I lastly chose Neo4j as a database. We wanted to use a graph database as it fit in right with the principal of the app, to create relationships between clients and solutions. For cloud services I used AWS, having experience using it before. This demonstrates using my own initiative as a developer to make decisions that will affect the project by choosing the final tech stack, and also demonstrates being able to correspond to business environments and working in a team as we jointly chose a graph database to satisfy the need of 'connecting' and the relationships between data being the central part of the app.

I used the IDE IntelliJ to code the Java + Spring backend and Visual Studio Code to code the Ionic Angular frontend. I used these IDE's as it makes the coding developing easier and more efficient, it provides mark-up, structure, code completion and debugging programmes, to list a few. I used different IDE's for frontend and backend as they are catered for and provide more and better support for the respective languages I am using for both.

Development

Backend

Figure 5 - Solution Model

Starting with the backend, I used the practice of creating separate data models using the single responsibility principle, starting with 'Solution' and 'User' (Figure 5). I will show an example of a Java backend using Spring Boot using the Solution model as an example, I used dependency injection (repository -> service -> controller) to create the APIs I need.

```
"id": 21,
    "name": "Nyn",
    "dateAdded": 2019-10-22*,
    "inageUrl": "Myn. jpg",
    "logoUrl": "Myn. jpg",
    "sentenceDescription": "Wyn is a mobile-first, secure, cloud-based enterprise video analytics tool that increases productivity and builds capability.",
    "detailedescription": "Wyn is a mobile-first, secure, cloud-based enterprise tool that increases productivity and builds capability.",
    "detailedescription": "Wyn is a mobile-first, secure, cloud-based enterprise tool that increases productivity and builds capability, empowering users to get the most out of their business workflow investments. Wyn aims to create a more human business environment, powered by more human communications and using technology, such as video and mobile, to simplify and improve working lives. It was founded in 2013 and is beset in Landon",
    "humbsite": "Introduced in 2013 and is beset in Landon",
    "phases' "Sensed': "Mill."
    "phases' "Sensed': "all."
    "phases' "Sensed': "all."
    "phases' "Sensed': "all."
    "phases' "Interpolities"; "unl.,
    "phases' "GeteXeady Field": mal.,
    "phases' "All"
    "dat": 24,
    "name": "All"
    "dat": 24,
    "name": "Benelux"
```

Figure 6 - JSON response of a get request

As I am creating a web API, the requests and responses will be in the JSON format. Figure 6 displays a JSON response of the model in Figure 5. The request to get this response is an API call to get a Solution object by id, using id as a path variable. The request sent to retrieve the response in Figure 6 would be 'http://localhost:8082/solutions/23', show in the function at the bottom of Figure 10. This is then able to be used by the frontend and interpolated to HTML, as seen in Figure 15. This demonstrates the use of data structures needed in the web developing environment.

Figure 7 - Configuration properties of application backend

I am connecting to an instance of my database running on a Docker container and connecting to this through Spring. I am running the instance locally and configuring my application to look to the correct port, as shown in Figure 7 on lines 3-5. I have also deployed the database and backend using AWS and have the configuration settings for that commented out on lines 9-12 and 14-15 in Figure 7 (note: lines 12, 15 & 16 credentials are redacted for security reasons).

Figure 8 - Solution Repository

Figure 8 shows the repository layer. I am using an interface which is extending the already existing Neo4j repository. I am using this because I would like to use the in-built methods that the Neo4j repository has, as well as writing my own custom queries. Line 13 in Figure 8 demonstrates an in built query, written in the Cypher, the graph query language.

Figure 9 - Solution Service

Figure 9 shows part of the service layer class, which connects to the repository layer and performs all the 'logic'. The method names clearly show what each method does, the methods are short with only one or a few lines. This demonstrates I have written clean quality code, which is easy to read and understand, which is important for future developers who work on the code to be able interpret the code easier.

```
GRESTCONTROILER
@CrossOrigin(origins = "*", allowedHeaders = "*")
@RequestMapping("/solutions")
public class SolutionController {
    private final SolutionService solutionService;
    public SolutionController(SolutionService solutionService) { this.solutionService = solutionService; }

@GetMapping
    public ResponseEntity.Collection.Solution>> getAllSolutions() {
        return ResponseEntity.ok(solutionService.getAllSolutions());
}

@GetMapping("/newest")
public ResponseEntity.collection.Solution>> getNewestSolutions();
}

@GetMapping("/recommended")
public ResponseEntity.ok(solutionService.getNewestSolutions(@RequestParam Collection.Long> tagIds) {
        return ResponseEntity.ok(solutionService.getRecommendedSolutions(tagIds));
}

@GetMapping("/[id]")
public ResponseEntity.Solution> findSolutionById(@PathVariable("id") Long id) {
        Solution solution = solutionService.findSolutionById(id);
        if (solution != null) {
            return ResponseEntity.ok(solution);
        } else {
            return ResponseEntity.notFound().build();
        }
}
```

Figure 10 - Solution Controller

Figure 10 shows the controller layer. This is annotated as a REST controller as we want to perform CRUD operations. All figures 4-7 demonstrate that I have linked the database to my backend code and can execute a RESTful service with CRUD statements and other custom queries. This is also demonstrates object oriented practice, as each layer is a separate class having one responsibility, and that one data type (Solution in this case) is also separated into its own classes and dependency inject layers shown below in Figure 11.



Figure 11 - Backend code folder structure

Frontend

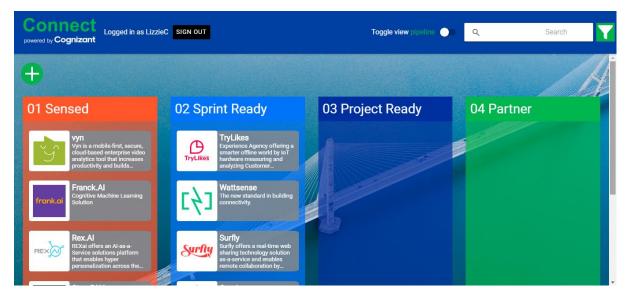


Figure 12 - App home page UI

```
        O homepagehtml ×
        th □ □

        src > app > home > O homepagehtml > ② ng-template > ② ion-contentbg-ship > ② ion-rowion-no-padding > ② ion-col > ② ion-card

        152
        cion-card-content class="scrollList">

        153
        cion-list class="ion-no-padding">

        154
        cion-list class="ion-no-padding">

        155
        cion-card *ngtf="solution ffilteredSolutions">

        156
        cion-card *ngtf="solution.phase === 'Sensed'">

        157
        cion-item (click)="navigateToSolutionDetail(solution.id)" *ngtf="!pdfMode"

        159
        cion-item (click)="navigateToSolution.logodurl)}">

        160
        cion-item (click)="navigateToSolution.logodurl)}">

        161
        cion-item (click)="navigateToSolution.logodurl)}">

        162
        cion-item (click)="navigateToSolution.logodurl)}">

        163
        cion-lame sere:"{{s3BucketUrl + solution.logodurl}}">

        164
        cpo{{solution.sentenceDescription}}

        165
        cion-item *ngtf="pdfMode" class="pointer" lines="none">

        166
        cion-lame *ng sere:"{{s3BucketUrl + solution.logodurl}}">

        167
        cion-avatar slot="start">

        168
        cion-ing sere:"{{s3BucketUrl + solution.logodurl}}">

        170
        cion-avatar

        cion-avatar
        cion-checkbox
```

Figure 13 - Home Page HTML portion of code

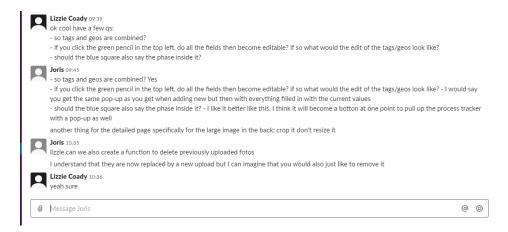


Figure 14 - Slack messages between me and Joris, the product owner and manager

Figure 12 shows the homepage of the app and Figure 13 shows the respective portion of the HTML code for the page. I wrote the whole of the code in Figure 13 and had a contribution along with two of my colleagues in the design of it show in Figure 12. The section of code shown in Figure 13 creates the orange column shown in Figure 12. Line 154 starts the for loop, looping through a list of Solution type objects, which are the further filtered on a conditional statement in line 155, creating each of the 3 grey blocks with the rest of the lines. The homepage has been made like this as the users wanted to be able to see the solutions they have entered, with what stage they are at (e.g. sensed, sprint ready) being the first thing they see, which was agreed from testing that this was the most important. I have daily correspondence with Joris who I work on the platform with where we discuss any queries, further improvements and generally to align as were work remotely. Figure 14 demonstrates an example of the usual conversations, this one requesting a simple feature that we had overlooked to implement. Working like this means we stay aligned and continue working in an agile way. We have daily stand ups with the whole team where any queries from me and the others can also get raised. I have demonstrated this by answering the feature requesting of deleting an uploaded image show in Figure 15, where the grey bin icon can be clicked to remove the uploaded image from the page.

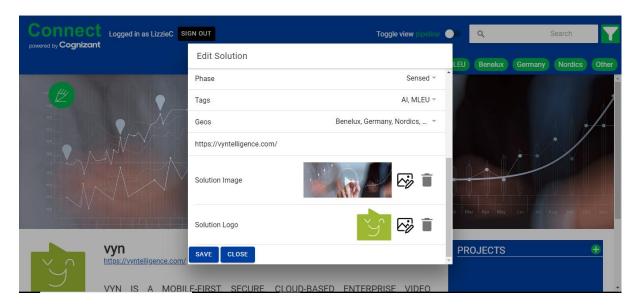


Figure 15 - 'Edit solution' app page

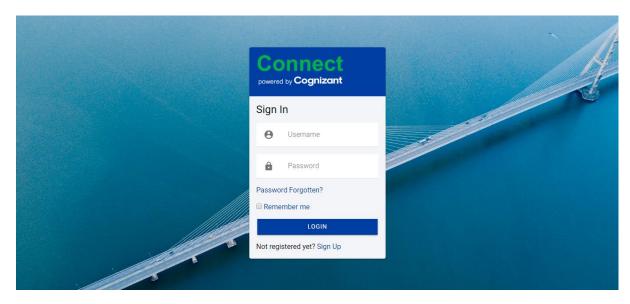


Figure 16 – App login screen

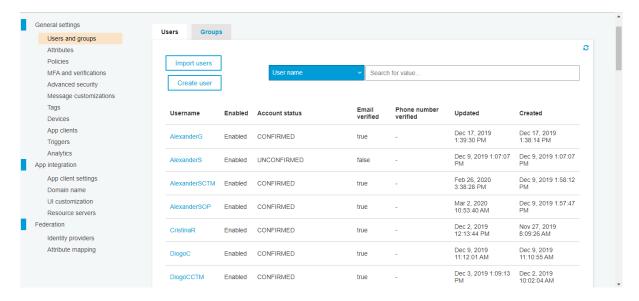


Figure 17 - Cognito user management screen

Figure 18 - Login page component code

Another component I built to be used in the app was the sign up and login, the UI for this shown in Figure 16. The screen shows a standard login screen with username and password fields with a button to have the option to sign up as a user. This would enable us to use secure login and sign up for new users and then be able to differentiate between the two user groups. Looking back in Figure 2, we were inclined to go more towards a single sign on approach, but after having a few meetings with the Cognizant team who manages our internal systems, we realised that this would be a lengthy and complicated process to implement SSO, so we changed our user story to have users be able to register, having no link to their Cognizant account. We decided to have this feature for after the MVP. I created a basic activity diagram (Figure 3) of the sign up process we would be using, showing that we would be using a username and email address parameter so we can verify the user. This would be useful as well as we had two user groups which would need to be differentiated upon login to provide different UI screens, the diagram showing that it checks whether some is an internal Connect Team Member (CTM) or an external Orchestration Partner (OP).

As we were using AWS services, I had had brief experience in using the user management service Cognito and thought we could use it in the application. I planned that we would have registered users on Cognito show in Figure 17, as it makes more sense to use a reliable and secure user management system rather than creating one myself, and then store the corresponding users in our graph database, with only the username to match the two corresponding users, so we can have user objects to create relationships with our other data types such as solutions, tags, geos etc. This ensures that we have a secure security system to protect all Cognizant employees and external clients who use the app, showing that I have thought about the company's practices and security. I used the AWS frontend library Amplify for the Cognito connection as show in Figure 18. Line 89 in the code shows the start of the sign in function, with line 97 incorporating the Amplify library's sign in API to handle the process. This whole process also ensured that no unverified user could access the app either, as we also had an auth guard service that would redirect anyone who isn't signed in back to the login screen.

Version Control

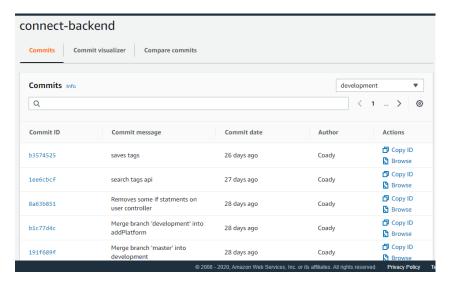


Figure 19 - The AWS service CodeCommit used for the code repositories showing connect-backend

All codebases I have made are stored on the AWS service CodeCommit. Figure 19 shows a portion of the most recent commits by me from the development branch of the backend code. Like common developer practice, I store the backend and frontend code in online repositories to manage version control and for new developers to be able to pull and develop the code.

Testing & Debugging

Figure 20 - A unit test testing to retrieve all newest solutions (solutions that have been added 30 days or less ago)

```
src > app > solution-detail > 🌃 solution-detail.page.ts > 😭 SolutionDetailPage > 😚 edit
          modal.onDidDismiss().then((res) => this.setSolutionAndPhase(res.data));
           return await modal.present();
           let title = '';
           let componentProps;
          if (id != null) {
  console.log("id is not null");
             if (isProject) {
  console.log("isProject is true");
             ps = this.solution.projects.find(p => p.id === id);
} else {
               console.log("isProject is not true");
               title = 'Edit a Sprint
               ps = this.solution.sprints.find(s => s.id === id);
             componentProps = {
                isProject,
               title,
               solution: this.solution.
             console.log("id is null");
```

Figure 21 - Front end code section of solution detail page showing a function to edit projects and sprints

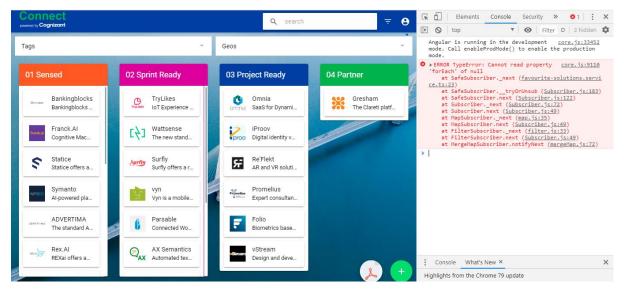


Figure 22 - Developer console open on home page of app displaying an error message

The coding process I used also included using unit tests to test my code, Figure 20 demonstrating this. I am testing the service for getting all newest solutions, which are solutions that have been added 30 days or less ago. I want to test where the code will meet this criteria, so I have created it so I have 2 solution examples (solution1 and solution3 in Figure 20) where I have set the 'dateAdded' field to dates that I know fit the criteria (solution1 having today's date solution3 having today's date minus 30 days), and 1 solution example which is set to more than 30 days old. I expect therefore the method to return 2 of the 3 solutions (line 109), also further tested the method is returning the exact solutions I expect (lines 110-112). Another process used, particularly in front end coding, was looking to the developer console on the chrome browser. If the code wasn't doing what I expected, I would put comments in each section of the code to see where it would stop, adjust the code then repeat until it

worked as expected. This is shown in lines 138, 140, 144 and 156 of Figure 21. I would also look at errors that the framework or the libraries I was using printed to the console to diagnose the issue, then looking in the library documentation and/or googling the error to find a solution. This is displayed in Figure 22 where I can see that a forEach function is trying to be performed on a null object and at what line and file of the code, meaning I can find where the issue is straight away.

Deployment

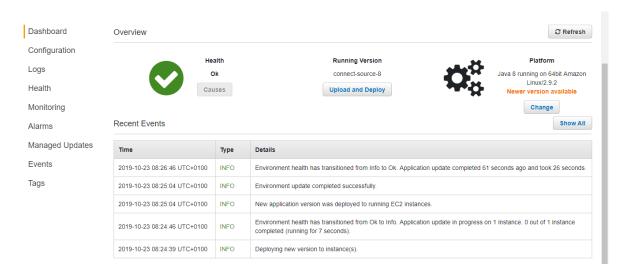


Figure 23 - Elastic beanstalk dashboard of backend deployment

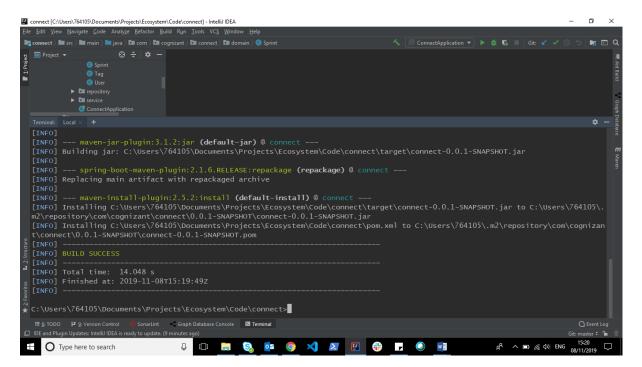


Figure 24 - mvn install command to build jar file

For first time deployment, I used Elastic Beanstalk from AWS. Elastic Beanstalk is a service that makes it very simple to deploy an application. Firstly, I created an environment and followed all the default steps (Figure 23 shows built environment's dashboard). You now need to deploy the code to the environment. This environment will need to connect to our production database and not our local one, so some configurations need to be changed before deployment. To create the jar file to use, I first switched the configuration properties from local to the deployed database properties (Figure 4, uncommenting lines 9-12 and commenting lines 2-5), then ran 'mvn install' (Figure 24) to build the jar. This demonstrates I am able to deploy code to production environments by setting up correct configuration properties to be able make the deployment process work correctly and be used by my team members.

While working to deploy the application, we considered the small budget of the project and that we would want to keep the costs as minimal as possible. As we knew a very small number of people would be using the app initially (up to 10), we chose one of the smallest instance size of a t2.micro. We would have then up scaled this when we released the application to Cognizant employees and clients.

Review



Figure 25 - Screenshot of user documentation provided for first time set up

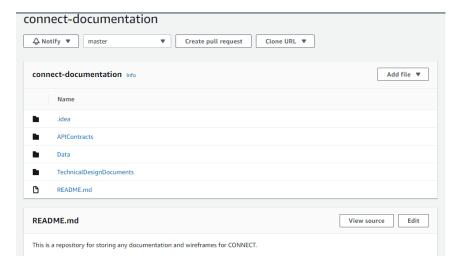


Figure 26 - Documentation repository on AWS CodeCommit

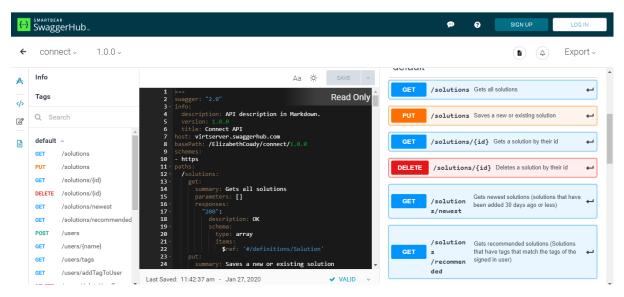


Figure 27 - Screenshot of Swagger showing part of the API contract

In conclusion, this has been a challenging but extremely rewarding project. I was very grateful to have been given the opportunity to develop an entire project from its beginning essentially. I have worked from planning with Alex, Diogo and Joris about the vision and feasibility of the project, to deploying to production for the use of my team and external clients. As I am still very inexperienced, I have learned how to code dryer through new iterations and through looking at the most recent tutorials and guides to keep up with modern standards of working. This came very important as in the last month we on boarded two software developer apprentices (Alex and Diogo) to help develop the project, where I had to make sure the code was able to be followed by new developers and easy to be picked up and worked on. I needed therefore to develop some user documentation on the setup seen on Figure 25, the API contract for the application shown in Figure 27 with the repository for this on CodeCommit shown in Figure 26. This presented a challenge as I had to also essentially be a technical lead and steer the project, being the only other technical person. It was definitely something out of my comfort zone and a bit anxiety inducing at first, but it turned out really well as we all wanted to perform to our best and make the platform be really amazing and something to be proud of. I have a brief video of me going over the project structure found in the attached video 'ConnectPresentation.mp4'. Overall, this has been an amazing experience being able to delve into all aspects of a development of a project and to work in a really positive and hardworking team, where we are all learning from each other and making ourselves better in our software developing careers.