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(1) 9 year old Karthick Arun is now AWS certified!

Arun Arunachalam

3-4 minutes

Karthick did it against all odds. This was a year long journey, 10 minutes at a time slow and steady. He was very persistent in me teaching him something every day even if its 5 min or 10 min a day. It's amazing to see how much he learned over a period of time. He amazes me every single day with his business acumen and his love to solve real world problems using cloud technology (especially AWS!).

He saw me prepare and take AWS certification tests and

showed a lot of interested in it. I asked him if he would like to take the test as well and he said "Yes, for sure".

After a year of reading and preparation we went to take the actual test at one of the PSI testing centers at Carson, CA. He was very excited, I was excited as a parent and always knew that he would breeze thru it, then the unthinkable happened - he was denied and sent back since he was just 9 years old and as per AWS policy the test taker needs to be at least 18 years of age.

Our dreams crashed in font of our eyes for both Karthick and myself. Karthick as always is very bold, he consoled me and said he would come back in 9 years time and take this exact test and he also told me that what he did not think that our effort was a waste of time and that he was going to focus on real world projects and use what we had learned over a period of a year starting from 2nd grade.

I was so heart broken, felt like some in the AWS organization should know about this and sent a note to none other than Andy Jassy, the CEO of Amazon Web Services. I explained to him what had happened. To our surprise he replied back to our email and said that the policy will be amended and he and his team was going to help Karthick get certified again. They moved so fast at a lighting speed and got him a new test date at our center of preference.

The center was picked and the date was set for the show. Karthick went into the same Carson center that denied him the entry the very first time. He was treated like a king, did the test in style (he took only like 25 min and the total test time was 90 min!) and came back with a bright smile and told me -

"Dad I got this!".

Congrats Karthick. I learned so much from you as much as you learned from me. (I will save those stories for another post)

As Karthick's dad I would like to thank Andy Jassy the CEO of AWS and his testing/certification team under Kevin Kelly for making a difference in our lives !.

Now he says he is very interested in working with real world projects and building a robot dog is his passion, he wants to use all sorts of Amazon technology like Lambda, Lex, Amazon Rekognition etc. to build a dog this will look real and also with have smartness and AI built in. He wants to go to reInvent conference to meet people as see as to who else can help him in his journey. Following is a video he specially made to thank Andy Jassy of AWS and also to ask his help to go to the ReInvent conference!