Owen McCooey Capak

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Assignment Name: CS 470 Final Reflection

YouTube Video Link: https://youtu.be/NCsw8LXgQ44

Experiences and Strengths

Professional Goals and Course Impact

This course, CS 470, has provided a comprehensive understanding of full stack web application development in the cloud, which directly aligns with my professional goals of becoming a proficient full stack developer. The hands-on experience with both front-end and back-end technologies, coupled with cloud services, has equipped me with the necessary skills to develop scalable and efficient web applications.

Skills Learned, Developed, or Mastered

1. **Full Stack Development**:
    - **Front-end**: Proficiency in HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and frameworks like React.
    - **Back-end**: Experience with Node.js, Express, and developing RESTful APIs.
2. **Cloud Services**:
    - Understanding and utilization of cloud platforms like AWS.
    - Deployment and management of web applications in the cloud.
3. **Database Management**:
    - Skills in using SQL and NoSQL databases.
    - Database design and optimization for performance and scalability.
4. **Version Control**:
    - Mastery of Git and GitHub for source code management and collaboration.
5. **Testing and Debugging**:
    - Implementing automated testing and debugging techniques to ensure application reliability.

Strengths as a Software Developer

1. **Problem-Solving Skills**: Ability to break down complex problems and develop efficient solutions.
2. **Adaptability**: Comfortable with learning new technologies and adapting to different development environments.

3. **Team Collaboration**: Experience working in agile teams, effectively communicating, and collaborating on projects.
4. **Attention to Detail**: Ensuring code quality and adherence to best practices.

Prepared Roles

1. **Full Stack Developer**: Capable of handling both front-end and back-end development tasks.
2. **Cloud Solutions Architect**: Designing and implementing scalable cloud solutions.
3. **DevOps Engineer**: Managing CI/CD pipelines, automating deployments, and ensuring application reliability.
4. **Software Developer**: Contributing to various stages of software development lifecycle.

Planning for Growth

Knowledge of Cloud Services

1. **Scalability**:
    - **Microservices**: Breaking down the application into smaller, independent services that can be scaled individually. This enhances flexibility and fault isolation.
    - **Serverless Architecture**: Utilizing serverless functions (e.g., AWS Lambda) to automatically scale based on demand, reducing the overhead of managing servers.
2. **Error Handling**:
    - Implementing robust logging and monitoring tools (e.g., CloudWatch, ELK Stack) to detect and respond to errors swiftly.
    - Designing the application with redundancy and failover mechanisms to ensure high availability.
3. **Cost Prediction**:
    - **Containers**: Using container orchestration tools like Kubernetes to manage and scale containerized applications predictably.
    - **Serverless**: Adopting a pay-as-you-go model where costs are incurred based on actual usage. Serverless is generally more cost-effective for unpredictable workloads due to its elasticity.

Pros and Cons of Containers vs. Serverless

- **Containers**:
    - **Pros**: Greater control over the environment, easier migration between cloud providers, and suitable for stateful applications.
    - **Cons**: Requires management of the underlying infrastructure, which can add complexity and overhead.
- **Serverless**:

    - **Pros**: Simplified deployment, automatic scaling, reduced operational overhead, and cost-effective for sporadic workloads.
    - **Cons**: Limited control over the environment, potential vendor lock-in, and can be less efficient for long-running processes.

Roles of Elasticity and Pay-for-Service

- **Elasticity**: Ensures the application can handle varying loads by automatically adjusting resources, thus maintaining performance and cost efficiency.
- **Pay-for-Service**: Enables cost optimization by paying only for the resources used, allowing for better budgeting and financial planning for future growth.

Conclusion

In summary, this course has significantly contributed to my development as a full stack developer, providing me with the skills and knowledge to build and manage web applications in the cloud. By leveraging cloud services, particularly microservices and serverless architectures, I am well-prepared to design scalable and cost-efficient solutions. The ability to think ahead and plan for future growth demonstrates my readiness to assume critical roles in the tech industry and contribute to the success of any organization.