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WEB 201

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9/22/2021

Function as a Service

As technology evolves almost every single day more and more companies are adapting to these advancements and offering services to help people develop applications. For my article I chose IBM’s FaaS service, titled “IBM Cloud Functions”. This article begins by giving a definition of Function as a Service (FaaS). The article defines it as “a cloud computing service that makes it easier for cloud application developers to run and manage microservices applications” (I. B. M. ). The article goes on to describe what exactly FaaS is, saying that it “is a type of cloud-computing service that allows you to execute code in response to events without the complex infrastructure typically associated with building and launching microservices applications” (I. B. M.). With the cloud becoming more common as a place to host these applications it can be hard for solo developers to manage the server-side of their application. With FaaS “the physical hardware, virtual machine operating system, and web server software management are all handled automatically by your cloud service provider” (I. B. M. ). FaaS allows the developer to focus solely on their application code, relieving the stress of having to run and operate a server. Next the article goes on to explain the difference between FaaS and Serverless saying that they are “often conflated with one another but the truth is that FaaS is a subset of serverless” (I. B. M. ). The article says that Serverless architecture is focused on any service category where configuration, management, and billing are invisible to the end user, where FaaS is focused on event-driven computing, where the application code, or containers only run in response to events or requests. The article then goes on to list some benefits of FaaS stating that “FaaS is a valuable tool if you’re looking to efficiently and cost-effectively migrate applications to the cloud” (I. B. M. ). The first benefit IBM says is that it allows the developer to focus more on their code, and not the servers behind it, which helps reduce the time-to-market. The next benefit is one that is really something that cloud computing as a whole offers, which is pay only for the resources you use, when you use them. This is really great for small businesses that are trying to release a product, but don't have the money to spend on expensive server costs that charge for things like idle time. The third benefit is another one that goes hand in hand with cloud computing which is Scale up or down automatically. This allows you to save money as your application will scale up or down when needed to accommodate. The fourth and final benefit is that you get all the benefits of robust cloud infrastructure, “FaaS offers inherent high availability because it is spread across multiple availability zones per geographic region and can be deployed across any number of regions without incremental costs” (I. B. M.). The article finishes up by explaining IBM’s Cloud Functions service and ends off with a video demoing their system.

I. B. M. (2019, July 30). *What is FaaS?* IBM. Retrieved September 22, 2021, from https://www.ibm.com/cloud/learn/faas.