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PROJECT NAME:	**PERSONAL BLOG ON IBM CLOUD STATIC WEB APPS: TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT**

PHASE-4

PERSONAL BLOG ON IBM CLOUD STATIC WEB APPS: TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

Personal blogs serve as a digital space where individuals can express thoughts, share knowledge, or document personal journeys. As the tech ecosystem evolves, so do the ways to host and deploy these blogs. IBM Cloud Static Web Apps provides a seamless platform to deploy static websites, and in this narrative, I'll walk you through my journey of developing my personal blog using this service.

2. WHY IBM CLOUD STATIC WEB APPS?

Before diving deep into the technicalities, it's essential to understand why I chose IBM Cloud for my blog:

Simplicity: IBM Cloud Static Web Apps makes it straightforward to deploy static websites without the complexities of server configurations.

Scalability: IBM ensures that as my blog grows in terms of traffic, it remains responsive and quick.

Security: With built-in SSL and other security measures, I can trust IBM Cloud to keep my content safe.

3. SETTING THE STAGE

3.1 CHOOSING THE STATIC SITE GENERATOR

For my blog, I opted for Jekyll, a popular static site generator. Jekyll allows me to write my blog posts in Markdown, and it then converts them into static HTML pages, making the deployment process efficient.

3.2 DESIGN & THEMES

Jekyll has a vast community that provides numerous themes. I picked a minimalist theme that focuses on content readability and a mobile-friendly interface.

4. TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

4.1 SETTING UP THE JEKYLL BLOG

After installing Jekyll, I initiated a new project:Using Bash

```
jekyll new my-personal-blog

cd my-personal-blog
```

4.2 CUSTOMIZING THE BLOG

Jekyll's _config.yml file became my primary spot for most of the customization. Here, I added my blog title, description, and other configurations.

4.3 WRITING MY FIRST POST

Jekyll's _posts directory is where the magic happens. I created a new Markdown file, following the format YYYY-MM-DD-title-of-the-post.md, and began my blogging journey.

5. DEPLOYMENT ON IBM CLOUD

5.1 PREPARING THE STATIC FILES

After finalizing the content, I generated the static files using:Bash

```
jekyll build
```

This command produced a _site directory containing all static files ready for deployment.

5.2 SETTING UP IBM CLOUD

IBM Cloud Account: I registered for an IBM Cloud account and navigated to the dashboard.

Object Storage Service: I created an instance of the Object Storage service, as this would host my static files.

Bucket Creation: In the Object Storage service, I created a new bucket, ensuring it's set for public access since it will serve my blog content.

5.3 UPLOADING STATIC FILES

Using the IBM Cloud web interface, I uploaded the contents of the _site directory to the bucket. Alternatively, IBM's CLI tools or SDKs can also facilitate this.

5.4 SETTING UP A CUSTOM DOMAIN

To give my blog a personal touch, I registered a custom domain. After that, I configured its DNS settings to point to my IBM Cloud Object Storage bucket. IBM Cloud provides an SSL certificate, ensuring my blog is accessed securely via HTTPS.

6. REFLECTIONS AND FUTURE PLANS

The experience of setting up a personal blog on IBM Cloud Static Web Apps was surprisingly straightforward. Not only did it provide me with a robust platform, but it also offered peace of mind regarding scalability and security.

For the future, I plan to:

Integrate Comments: Using third-party services like Disqus, I hope to make my blog more interactive.

Analytics Integration: I aim to integrate tools like Google Analytics to better understand my readership and their preferences.

7. CONCLUSION

Developing a personal blog using IBM Cloud Static Web Apps combined the best of both worlds: the simplicity of static sites with the robustness of IBM Cloud. As I continue my blogging journey, I'm confident in the platform's ability to adapt and grow alongside my ambitions. For anyone considering a similar endeavor, this blend of Jekyll and IBM Cloud comes highly recommended!