Scrum Documentation



SkipQ DevOps – Proxima Centauri

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Synopsis:

This document is a guide to the techniques and procedures followed for the conclusion of the DevOps training offered at SkipQ.

For the construction and operation of production-grade web applications running across numerous regions, Infrastructure as Code is made use of. RESTful Python Apis are employed on AWS to monitor CloudWatch metrics, along with the application of Continuous Integration and Continuous Deployment for automation.

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1. Orientation Session

1.1. Introduction to Cloud Computing

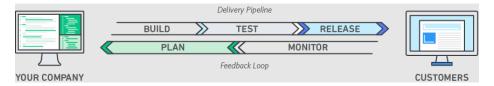
Cloud computing is the delivery of diverse services through the Internet. It is the on-demand availability of computer system resources. It uses the internet for storing and managing data on remote servers and then access data via the internet.

1.2. Introduction to AWS

AWS (Amazon Web Services) is an extensive and advancing distributed computing platform introduced by Amazon that incorporates a combination of infrastructure as a service (IaaS), platform as a service (PaaS) and packaged software as a service (SaaS).

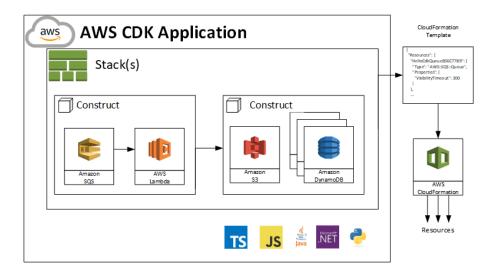
1.3. Introduction to DevOps

DevOps represents a change in IT culture, focusing on rapid IT service delivery through the adoption of agile, lean practices in the context of a system-oriented approach.



1.4. Introduction to AWS CDK

The AWS CDK is a new software development framework from AWS with the sole purpose of making it fun and easy to define cloud infrastructure in our favorite programming language and deploy it using AWS CloudFormation.



2. Sprint 1

2.1. Objective

Using AWS CDK to measure the availability and latency(delay) of a custom list of websites and monitor the results on a CloudWatch. Then setting up alarms on metrics when the prescribed thresholds are breached. Each alarm is published to SNS notifications which triggers a lambda function that writes the alarm information into DynamoDB.

2.2. Implementation

Creating the Hello World Lambda Function:

AWS Lambda is a serverless compute service that runs your code in response to events and automatically manages the underlying compute resources for you.

Against EC2, we now have Lambda to deploy or scale applications. It is a virtual function; it uploads and scales. It doesn't need to be provisioned, it only needs to provision code which is a function that will run on the cloud, and will auto provision resources file.

We are using the *Function* method of Lambda library. It defines the lambda functions.

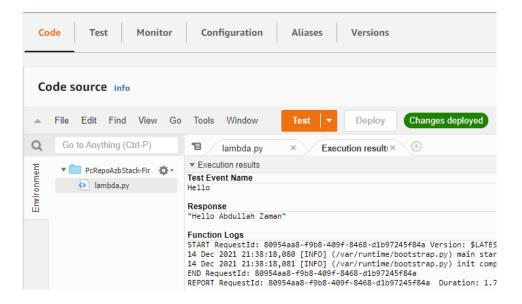
Then we define our lambda handler that takes an *event* and *context* as parameters.

```
def lambda_handler(event, context):
    return "Hello {} {}".format(event['first_name'], event['last_name'])
```

Now we use the command *cdk synth* to synthesize our code into CloudFormation template and they we use *cdk deploy* to deploy it in our S3 bucket, where an intermediary resource will run our code.

```
(.venv) abdullahzamanskipq:~/environment/PCRepoAZB (master) $ cdk synth
[WARNING] @aws-cdk/aws-lambda.Code#asset is deprecated.
    use `fromAsset`
    This API will be removed in the next major release.
Resources:
    FirstHWLambdaServiceRole73D1B294:
        Type: AWS::IAM::Role
(.venv) abdullahzamanskipq:~/environment/PCRepoAZB (master) $ cdk deploy
[WARNING] @aws-cdk/aws-lambda.Code#asset is deprecated.
    use `fromAsset`
    This API will be removed in the next major release.
```

Now we test our code. The *code source* is our compute resource that runs our code from s3 bucket.



Creating the WebHealth Lambda Function:

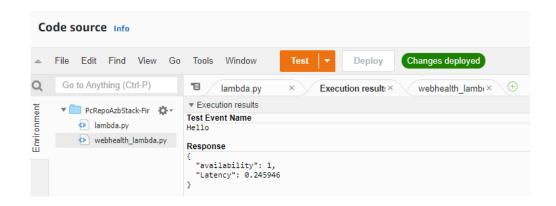
In this we are working to achieve two metrics of a url that will determine its availability and latency.

We are using the *urllib3* library that will catch the status of our url and will determine the availability metric.

The latency metric is determined by using the *datetime* module through which we measure the different of the time the url is called and the response we receive.

```
webhealth lambda.py •
💮 pc_repo_azb_stack.pj×
 import datetime
 import urllib3
URL_TO_MONITOR = "www.skipq.org"
AWS: Add Debug Configuration | AWS: Edit Debug Configuration
 def lambda_handler(events, context):
     values = dict()
      avail = get_availability()
      latency = get_latency()
values.update({"availability":avail,"Latency":latency})
      return values
 AWS: Add Debug Configuration | AWS: Edit Debug Configuration
 def get_availability():
     http = urllib3.PoolManager()
response = http.request("GET", URL_TO_MONITOR)
if response.status==200:
    return 1.0
      else:
           return 0.0
 AWS: Add Debug Configuration | AWS: Edit Debug Configuration
 def get_latency():
      http = urllib3.PoolManager()
start = datetime.datetime.now()
      response = http.request("GET", URL_TO_MONITOR)
end = datetime.datetime.now()
      delta = end - start
      latencySec = round(delta.microseconds * .000001, 6)
      return latencySec
```

We can see the values returned for our metrics in code source.



Periodically monitoring the Metrics:

Currently our WebHealth lambda function is currently a one-time invocation, but being a DevOps engineer we want to periodically monitor our metrics and we want to schedule it to run every one minute.

Amazon EventBridge delivers a near real-time stream of system events that describe changes in AWS resources.

First, we have to schedule an *event*, and then will specify a *target* (i.e., lambda in our case) for our event. Then we specify a *rule* for applying the schedule to the target. We want our lambda to be invoked periodically to show us the availability and latency of our url in order to visualize our metrics graphically.

```
from aws_cdk import (
    core as cdk,
    aws_lambda as lambda_,
    aws_events as events_,
    aws_events as events_,
    aws_events_targets as targets_,
    aws_iam
}

### The CDK's core module. The following line also imports it as 'core' for use
### the CDK's core module. The following line also imports it as 'core' for use
### the CDK's core module. The following line also import if you don't need it.

### The code that the companies of the companies
```

Publishing Metrics on CloudWatch:

CloudWatch is a monitoring service, where we can use functions that will help up set alarms and we can set metrics e.g., availability and latency. We can also use cloudwatch to graphically monitor our metrics and other things

We use boto3 module to use its CloudWatch client.

```
\triangleright cloudwatch putMetric ×
                           constants.pv
                                                   \times \oplus
import boto3
import constants as constants
class CloudWatchPutMetric:
    def init (self):
        self.client = boto3.client("cloudwatch")
    def put_data(self, nameSpace, metricName, dimensions, value):
        response = self.client.put_metric_data(
            Namespace = nameSpace,
            MetricData = [{
                "MetricName": metricName,
                "Dimensions": dimensions,
                "Value": value,
                }],
```

In the project stack we have an event that will schedule every one minute and every one minute it will call the *webhealth_lambda* function. Now every time *webhealth_lambda* function is called we want to take the metrics and put them on CloudWatch.

```
import datetime
import urllib3
import constants as constants
from cloudwatch_putMetric import CloudWatchPutMetric
AWS: Add Debug Configuration | AWS: Edit Debug Configuration
def lambda_handler(events, context):
    values = dict()
    cw = CloudWatchPutMetric()
    avail = get_availability()
    dimensions = [
     {"Name": "URL", "Value": constants.URL_TO_MONITOR},
         {"Name": "Region", "Value": "DUB"}
    cw.put_data(constants.URL_MONITOR_NAMESPACE,constants.URL_MONITOR_NAME_Availability, dimensions, avail)
latency = get_latency()
    dimensions = [
    {"Name": "URL", "Value": constants.URL_TO_MONITOR},
         {"Name": "Region", "Value": "DUB"}
    cw.put_data(constants.URL_MONITOR_NAMESPACE,constants.URL_MONITOR_NAME_Latency, dimensions, latency)
values.update({"availability":avail,"Latency":latency})
    return values
```

Abdullah_WebHealth • url_availability • Region: D...

Abdullah WebHealth • url latency • Region: DUB..

The graphical results can be seen as follows in the CloudWatch console.

Setting up Alarms:

url_availability

url latency

In our project stack file, we want to directly use CloudWatch, so the metrics we used are able to be imported in our infrastructure.

< >

-~ △ @ O

~ △ @ O

10 Seconds

10 Seconds

Average

So, when we invoke lambda, the metrics defined in are automatically published on CloudWatch, but to set alarms on these metrics we need to have these metrics in our infrastructure in stack file.

We can call *Metric* on an existing metric which will be used in our infrastructure to set an alarm on top of it. We can't set an alarm on lambda it has to be done in our infrastructure. Lambda gets invoked every one minute, so every minute our alarm will be created which we do not want. We want our alarm to be continuous so every one minute the metric gets updated, and if the metric goes up the specified threshold alarm will be raised.

The infrastructure that we are setting is done in stack, lambda is the function that gets invoked. So, first the stack will set up and then lambda will be invoked. All the setting is done in stack.

We define our metric and then set an alarm on it in our stack file.

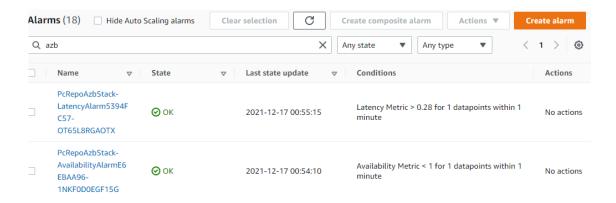
```
thouse the interior constants.URL_MONITOR_NAMESPACE, constants.URL_MONITOR_NAME_Availability, dimensions, avail)
tw.put_data(constants.URL_MONITOR_NAMESPACE, constants.URL_MONITOR_NAME_Latency, dimensions, latency)
```

We set up our dimensions as.

```
dimension = {"URL" : constants.URL_TO_MONITOR}
```

We then create the metrics.

We can see the results in CloudWatch console.



SNS Topic – Email Subscription:

SNS is the *simple notification service* and it notifies the subscriber of a breach in threshold.

We will first set the *sns* and then we will add *sns-subscriptions* on it to subscribe to the sns topic.

We define a topic with *id* and the *scope* as parameters.

```
topic = sns.Topic(self, "WebHealthTopic")
topic.add_subscription(subscriptions_.EmailSubscription("abdullah.zaman.babar.s@skipq.org"))
```

We then add subscription to our alarms that we specified. These should be under the alarms defined.

```
availability_alarm.add_alarm_action(actions_.SnsAction(topic))
latency_alarm.add_alarm_action(actions_.SnsAction(topic))
```

We receive the alarm notification in our email.



AWS Notifications <no-reply@sns.amazonaws.com>

2:10 AM (1 minute ago) ☆ ←



You are receiving this email because your Amazon CloudWatch Alarm "PcRepoAzbStack-LatencyAlarm5394FC57-OT65L8RGAOTX" in the US East (Ohio) region has entered the ALARM state, because "Threshold Crossed: 1 out of the last 1 datapoints [0.315623 (16/12/21 21:09:00)] was greater than the threshold (0.28) (minimum 1 datapoint for OK -> ALARM transition)." at "Thursday 16 December, 2021 21:10:41 UTC"

View this alarm in the AWS Management Console:

https://us-east-2.console.aws.amazon.com/cloudwatch/deeplink.js?region=us-east-2#alarmsV2;alarm/PcRepoAzbStack-LatencyAlarm5394FC57-OT65L8RGAOT

Alarm Details:

PcRepoAzbStack-LatencyAlarm5394FC57-OT65L8RGAOTX - Name:

- Description:

- State Change: OK -> ALARM

- Reason for State Change: Threshold Crossed: 1 out of the last 1 datapoints [0.315623 (16/12/21 21:09:00)] was greater than the threshold (0.28) (minimum 1 datapoint for OK -> ALARM transition).

Thursday 16 December, 2021 21:10:41 UTC - Timestamp:

315997497220 - AWS Account:

- Alarm Arn: arn:aws:cloudwatch:us-east-2:315997497220:alarm:PcRepoAzbStack-LatencyAlarm5394FC57-OT65L8RGAOTX

Lambda Subscription:

We want that when we get notified, we want another lambda function to be notified which happens when an alarm is raised.

- 1. We need to add lambda as a subscriber to the sns topic, and a sns notification which is an event goes to the lambda.
- 2. When the lambda is triggered, it takes the cloudwatch alarm information as an event.
- 3. Now parse the alarm event, and write it in DynamoDB. Every time an alarm is raised add a row to the table

First, we create a table in our DynamoDB and make sure that once the table in created it doesn't not try to overwrite it.

```
def create_table(self, t_name):
       return db.Table(self, id="Table", table_name=t_name,
                   partition_key=db.Attribute(name="AlarmDetails", type=db.AttributeType.STRING))
```

We the create a lambda function for our database.

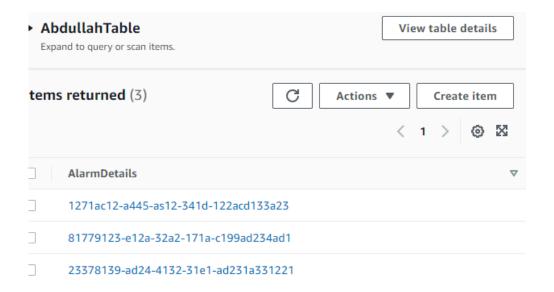
```
db_lambda = self.create_lambda("DynamoLambda", "./resources", "dynamodb_lambda.lambda_handler", lambda_role)
dynamo_table.grant_read_write_data(db_lambda)
# We define the schedule, target and the rule for our lambda
```

Then we create a function to parse through the event.

```
import boto3
import json

AWS: Add Debug Configuration | AWS: Edit Debug Configuration
def lambda_handler(event, context):
    #write to database
    #resource = boto3.resource('dynamodb')
    client_ = boto3.client('dynamodb')
    info = event['Records'][0]['Sns']['MessageId']
    info = json.loads(info)
    item = {
        'AlarmDetails': {'S': info}
        }
        client_.put_item(TableName="AbdullahTable", Item=item)
```

The entries recorded are as follows.



3. Sprint 2

3.1. Objective

Creating a multi-stage pipeline that has a beta, gemma and production stage using AWS CDK. Then adding unit and integration test to the defined stages. The project is concluded by automating a rollback to the previous version if the metric is in alarm.

3.2. Implementation

Continuous Integration and Continuous Delivery:

Continuous Integration is a process where developers regularly merger their changes in code into a central repository, after which automated tests and builds are run. It focuses on smaller commits and smaller code changes to integrate.

Continuous Delivery is a process where code changes are automatically built, tested and prepared for production release.

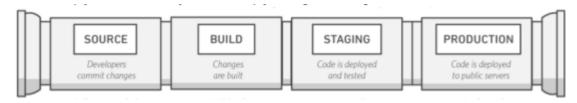
The point of *continuous delivery* is NOT to apply every change to production immediately, but to ensure that every change is ready to go to production.

Continuous Deployment:

With *Continuous Deployment* revisions are deployed to a production environment automatically without explicit approval from a developer, making the entire software release process automated.

Pipeline:

CI/CD can be pictured as a pipeline, where new code is submitted on one end, tested over a series of stages and then published as production-ready code.



In *source*, as we do on GitHub, our code is always up to date and then commit our changes and our code is ready. This step has to be done manually.

In *build* we automate the cdk synth and cdk deploy process so that it automatically does that itself. The code is synthesized into CloudFormation format.

In *staging* we don't want our code to be put live instantly. There might be a lot of problems in it. So before putting it live, we have to test it. We deploy it in a test environment to better our results.

Once we are satisfied with our code, we can deploy it to public servers which is the *production* stage.

Creating a Pipeline:

The first step is to specify the location of our source code. In our case it's the GitHub's central repository. We have to specify that we need to get our code from GitHub. Then we specify how to build the source code that we got from GitHub. After that we need to deploy in a test environment, and then finally in the production area.

We have to use the aws cdk.pipelines module for our program.

So, in our cloud instance we need to create a file called *piperline_stack.py* where we will first define the source to our code. We will use the *CodePipelineSource* class which has multiple sources but we'll use *git_hub*, we can see that here in aws construct library.

In *git_hub* method we need to specify the *repo_string* which is the location for our GitHub and then the *branch* which will be *main* in our case. We then need to provide *authentication*, so when we are doing it through code, we need to find some way to authenticate unlike doing it manually using the username and token. So, for authentication we have to save GitHub's access token in a service called *Secrets Manager*.

Now we also have to define the *trigger* parameter in our *git_hub* method, which specifies when will our pipeline start working. So, we see that the trigger has a few values. We'll use *POLL* that periodically checks the code for changes, and whenever it detects changes it will start the pipeline.

Now we have our code so it now needs to build. It basically needs to do *cdk synth* and *cdk deploy*. We'll specify how we'll build our code. We have to tell our code which dependencies are required to run our code, which we specify in our *requirements.txt* file and after that we have to do synthesize and deploy. We have to use the *ShellStep* module from the *pipelines* library. This will help us run the shell commands.

So, we name it e.g., "synth", then we define the *input* which we have defined as source above. The next are the *commands* in a list that we need to execute in our shell that are required to build our source code.

So we need to define where our cdk.out file will be generated in our pipeline which will be the *primary_output_directory* parameter.

Now remember that whenever we do *cdk synth* we get a folder called *cdk.out*. When we compile our code we get some metadata and that is stored in this folder. If we open the *template.json* file we have all the information in it like the name of database we used etc and when we do *cdk deploy* it reads this template file. We don't put this folder on GitHub because whenever we do cdk synth it creates this folder, so we can put this file in our *.gitignore*.

We define our pipeline using the *CodePipeline* method.

The *app.py* file is our entry point. We have imported our stack file and then instantiated it in 3^{rd} line which means that we are creating an instance of that class and we are passing it an object called *core.App()* and then we are synthesizing it.

We can also have other arguments to specify what our environment is in which this code will run. If it is commented out then by default it will use our current environment but we can change it to any region we want.

Now that we are using code pipelines we need to change the entry point. We are not running our code from the cloud9, we have created a pipeline where we have indicated the source code and how to build it. So, we need to change our *app.py* file as well. Now the entry point should be the pipeline. When we deploy our pipeline all the intermediary steps will be taken care of automatically.

Up till now we have worked in out stack file and we use app.py as the entry point where we started. So we will use the file pipeline_stack.py where we have already

defined our source and synth. So, for this we also need to define a class e.g. PipelineStack and then initialize it.

Pipeline is also a stack.

Now we don't need to call our infrastructure stack in *app.py*, we need to call our pipeline stack here.

And then we instantiate it and pass the arguments **app**, the name of the pipeline and we can specify the region where we have to run it.

```
#!/usr/bin/env python3
import os

from aws_cdk import core as cdk

from aws_cdk import core

#from pc_repo_azb.pc_repo_azb_stack import PcRepoAzbStack1
from pc_repo_azb.pipeline_stack import PipelineStack

app = core.App()

PipelineStack(app, 'PipelineStackAbdullah3', env=core.Environment(account='315997497220', region='us-east-2'))
app.synth()
```

Staging:

We have to specify to deploy it in the region. Now we need to instantiate our infrastructure stack in our pipeline stack and we tell it to run our instantiated object in this environment.

We can run our program in multiple regions and we have to tell our pipeline these details.

So let's say running our program in one region is seen as one stage. So our test and production environment are different stages.

For this we'll create another file called *infra_stage.py* and similarly as before we define a class and now it uses *cdk.stage* as its super class.

We then specify our test and production stages in our pipeline stack.py file

```
beta = InfraStage(self, "AbdullahZBeta", env={
  'account': '315997497220',
  'region': 'us-east-2'
})

gemma = InfraStage(self, "AbdullahZGemma", env={
  'account': '315997497220',
  'region': 'us-east-2'
})

production = InfraStage(self, "AbdullahZProduction", env={
  'account': '315997497220',
  'region': 'us-east-2'
})
```

Then we use the *add* stage method to deploy our stages.

```
pipeline.add_stage(beta)
pipeline.add_stage(gemma)
pipeline.add_stage(production)
```

Bootstrapping:

Before we use any resources, we need to provision them which is called *Bootstrapping*. You have to tell aws that you need these resources.

So if we use the *cdk bootstrap* command only, by default it will bootstrap the region in which we are working. We can also specify a different region as well.

To do Bootstrapping we need to push our code to GitHub and then run the following command. We can also specify a *qualifier* name and a *toolkit* name to overwrite the default and in the end specify the region at which we are going to bootstrap it.

abdullahzamanskipq:~/environment/ProximaCentauri/AbdullahZaman/sprint2/PCRepoAZB (main) \$ cdk bootstrap --qualifier abdullah --toolkit-stack -name abdullahtoolkit14 aws://315997497220/us-east-2

Then we use the following command to deploy our pipeline.

abdullahzamanskipg:~/environment/ProximaCentauri/AbdullahZaman/sprint2/PCRepoAZB (main) \$ cdk deploy PipelineStackAbdullah3

We can see our pipeline in the *CodePipeline* service.

PipelineStac kAbdullah3-Pipeline985 0B417-138HNX74K QIPJ

Succeeded

abdullah2021skipq_ProximaCentauri – d035674d ☑: Merge branch 'main' of https://github.com/abdullah2021skipq /ProximaCentauri into...

2 hours ago

Manual Approval Step:

We have added the test stages and now we can add the production stage but before that we need to add a manual approval step which will allow the user to either approve or reject the deployment of the code to the production stage.

We can do that by using the *ManualApprovalStep* method of the *pipelines* class.

The *add_stage* has two arguments *post* and *pre*. If we don't add it, it means that it doesn't need to do anything before or after adding the stage.

Let's say before adding the production stage we want to add the manual approval step, so we add the *pre* argument. When our code will go from gemma to production stage it will request a manual approval on our pipeline and it will deploy only if we specify manually.

pipeline.add_stage(production, pre=[pipelines.ManualApprovalStep("Approve Changes and deploy to Production")])

Unit and Integration Test:

We can add various tests to check if the infrastructure we designed is working as intended or not.

Here we've added a unit test in the *unit_tests* directory to check if we are getting the two lambda functions that we created. We'll use *pytest* library for our tests.

```
import pytest
from aws_cdk import core
from pc_repo_azb.pc_repo_azb_stack import PcRepoAzbStack1

def test_lambda_count():
    app=core.App()
    PcRepoAzbStack1(app,'Unittest')
    template=app.synth().get_stack_by_name('Unittest').template
    fun=[resource for resource in template['Resources'].values() if resource['Type']=='AWS::Lambda::Function']
    assert len(fun)==2
```

We also need to make the following changes to the test file in the *unit* directory for our unit test to function.

Now in our pipeline stack we add the tests that we have defined. So, our tests are not going to run in our local environment and it needs to install all the requirements in the environment where it's going to run and then it needs to do the unit and integration test. We can add the tests either as pre or post deploying.

```
unitTest = pipelines.CodeBuildStep(
    'unit_tests',input=source,
    commands=["cd AbdullahZaman/sprint2/PCRepoAZB/","pip install -r requirements.txt", "npm install -g aws-cdk", "pytest unit_tests"]
)
integrationTest = pipelines.CodeBuildStep(
    'integration_tests',input=source,
    commands=["cd AbdullahZaman/sprint2/PCRepoAZB/","pip install -r requirements.txt", "npm install -g aws-cdk", "pytest integration_tests"]
)
pipeline.add_stage(beta, pre=[unitTest])
pipeline.add_stage(gemma, pre=[integrationTest])
pipeline.add_stage(gemma, pre=[integrationTest])
pipeline.add_stage(production, pre=[pipelines.ManualApprovalStep("Approve Changes and deploy to Production")])
```

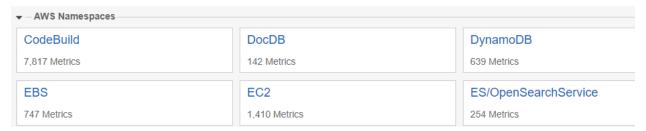
We can also run our tests locally to check if our code is working. We only specify the folder for *pytest* and it runs all the tests inside it.

(main) \$ pytest unit_tests/

Rollback:

Let's say we make changes to our lambda function.

Now if you visit *Cloudwatch* we can see that apart from the custom metrics we defined, we have access to the pre-defined metrics that we can use.



If we visit the *Lambda* metric we say the following, then we select *By Function Name* and we find the following. We can see the *Duration* metric which tells how much time is being taken by our function when running. So we can set an alarm if our lambda function is taking more time than set in the threshold and we can set a rollback on that which can roll back to the previous version of our lambda before the changes were made.

So we have to read these metrics and we'll do that in our infrastructure stack file. To read the metric we'll have to define the name of the metric in the AWS Namespace as AWS/Lambda.

To get the name of the lambda we can use the *function_name* attribute of the *Function* method of the *aws_lambda* class.

Now we want to set an alarm on our metric if it crosses a threshold. And when the alarm is generated, we need to do a rollback to a previous version. To do that we use <code>aws_codedeploy</code> class and the <code>LambaDeploymentGroup</code> method of this class. This method will help us in deployment and it helps us with shifting traffic. Let's say we deploy a new lambda, so with the use of this function aws is not going to start acting on the new lambda. It will divert 10-20% of the traffic to the lambda that we have changed and the rest will remain in the previous lambda and on that small portion of the traffic we can have certain tests if the alarm is generated or not and if it's happening then do a rollback.

The default *deployment_config* is 10% with 5 minutes and if it works fine it will move to the new version. We can see that in *LambdaDeploymentConfig*.

In *auto_rollback* parameter we are going to define how to perform the rollback. In the *alias* parameter we will have two versions, old and new.

This *alias* can be created using the *aws_lambda* class.

This portion of code will be placed in our infrastructure stack file.