ALX Foundations: Milestone 13 Worksheet

SECTION A: Tech Track Reflection

Step 1: Track Choice

Which tech track (AWS, Salesforce, Data Science, Data Analytics or Software Engineering) are you planning to pursue? It's ok if you're not still not absolutely certain, but you should select your most likely choice. Please list the number of weeks or months that your chosen track takes. (So that we know you know!) 🙂

Step 1: Chosen Tech Track
A. Track choice: AWS **B. Track length (12 weeks, 14 weeks, 42 weeks, or 1 year):** 14 weeks

Step 2: Three Reasons

Please reflect on your why for pursuing your chosen tech track. List 3 reasons why this track appeals to you personally / why you want to pursue it.

Step 2: Reasons
A. I'm interested in cloud systems design and being an AWS Solution Architect allows me to know the ins and outs of cloud systems and be able to design them. **B.** AWS Certified professionals are well paid so I'm also here for money. **C.** It is not affected by geographical location so it gives me freedom to work remotely and still be able to work and earn money.

Step 3: Desired Job/Position

After you complete your tech track, what would be your ideal job title or position?

Step 3: Job title/Position you want
Cloud Solutions Architect

Step 4: Expected Obstacle(s)

Everything worth doing will have hard parts. Please list at least one challenge or obstacle that you expect to encounter during the course of your studies in the coming weeks/months.

Step 4: Challenge(s)/Obstacle(s)
I expect to be stretched in terms of time and effort. I expect to spend more time and effort on my studies and do more difficult tasks than I'm doing now.

Step 5: Support plan

Please list at least 2 ways you will deal with the challenge(s)/obstacle(s). It could be seeking support from others, a specific way you will resource yourself or schedule your time, or something else. (There is no right or wrong answer– this is for you.)

Step 5: Ways to deal with challenge(s)/obstacle(s)
A. The first way I will deal with the challenge is to be proactive, that is to stay ahead of time at all times so that I won't find myself chasing deadlines and I assume that will give me control over my studies.
B. The second way is to be more thorough as I go through the resources so that I won't miss any detail. Moreso, I will have to reach out to my peers more often for help in several tasks and to close my knowledge gap, this is required because no one person will ever know everything.

Step 6:

Do some web research to learn more about how technical teams work in your specific field. Look at at least 3 sources. Then, list at least 3 roles that you may find on a technical team in your field, and briefly state what each does. List at least 1 source where you found this information.

Step 6: Technical Teams in Your Field

Role A / Description: Cloud Solution Architect - Responsible for designing and implementing cloud-based solutions that meet the needs of an organization. In order for them to do this they have to understand the business requirements and also assess the existing infrastructure.

Role B / Description: DevOps Engineer - They bridge the gap between development and operations by automating and streamlining the process of building, deploying and managing applications in the cloud. They use tools like CI/CD pipelines,configuration management and monitoring systems to ensure efficient and reliable delivery of software.

Role C / Description: Cloud Security Specialist - Responsible for securing the cloud infrastructure and applications against potential threats and vulnerabilities. They identify security risks, implement access controls, encryption measures and monitor cloud environments for any suspicious activities

Source(s) of above information:

chatGPT

Step 7a: Engaging with Your Industry

As you enhance your understanding of technical teams and how your tech track's industry works:

List at least 2 publications, newsletters, Youtube channels or community platforms that you have followed or subscribed to.

Step 7a: Engaging with Your Industry

Subscription #1: AWS Online Tech Talks
(https://www.youtube.com/@AWSOnlineTechTalks)
Short Description: A youtube channel that covers a wide range of topics and expertise levels through technical deep dives, demos, customer examples and live Q and A with AWS experts.

Subscription #2: AWS JOZI (https://www.meetup.com/AWS-JOZI/)
Short Description: A community that meets up monthly online to chat and learn about all things AWS and focus is on real-world use cases and solving problems with building on AWS.

Step 7b: Learning About Your Industry

As you enhance your understanding of technical teams and how your tech track's industry works:

Share URLs for at least 3 relevant videos that you found and watched on Youtube. (**Not** from the playlist provided later.)

Step 7b: Learning About Your Industry

Youtube Videos Engaged With:
#1: ▶ AWS Certified Cloud Practitioner Training 2020 - Full Course
#2: ▶ Cloud Computing Architecture Tutorial - Front End & Back End | Cloud Com…
#3: ▶ AWS Tutorial for Beginners | AWS Certified Solutions Architect Tutorial | AW…

Step 7c: Industry Professionals

Go to LinkedIn.com. (If you don't have an account already, you can create one. We will work on building/improving your profile later.) Play around with searching for people. Find 3 people who have worked in your chosen field for at least 2 years that have careers that look interesting to you. Ideally these individuals would be on the African continent, but that is not required.

Provide their names and urls of their profiles here.

Step 7c: Industry Professionals
Name 1: Preston Gounden **URL 1:** https://www.linkedin.com/in/preston-gounden/ **Name 2:** Madumetsa Msomi **URL 2:** https://www.linkedin.com/in/madumetsa-msomi-56a4ba105/ **Name 3:** Taona Madawo **URL 3:** https://www.linkedin.com/in/taona-madawo-10717b8/details/experience/

Step 8: Interview an Expert or Watch Expert Interviews

It's important to be curious and always asking questions. What have you wondered about your chosen field but not found an answer to? Your questions may be about what job positions are available, how satisfied people are in your chosen career, paths to advancement, how readily available remote work vs. local work is, the largest employers in your field, or anything else related!

In this activity, you have 2 options - **Choose 1**:
      Option A: Interview an Expert in Your Industry
      Option B: Watch Expert Interviews

Choose 1 option and delve right into the activity below!

Step 8- Option A: Interview an Expert in Your Industry

We have prepared an [Interview Guide](#) (including a template for you to use when you message experts on LinkedIn or other platforms).

The Interview Guide should help you prepare and conduct interviews with the industry expert. During the interview, take down notes to answer the following questions:

Step 8 - Option A: Expert Interview Insights

A. **From the expert's perspective, what is the demand for employees in this specialization, globally and locally?**
From his perspective, cloud professionals are in high demand in South Africa because most companies are migrating to the cloud so the need is very high. He added that the same phenomenon is also taking place globally.

B. **What kind of preparation did the expert undertake to get where s/he is today in their career?**
He started off as a web developer and then he got drawn to architecture, architecture brought him to the cloud. Soon after he learnt architecture, he undertook an AWS Solution Architect Associate certification which, according to him, boosted and solidified his knowledge in the cloud market. For him attaining an AWS certification didn't take much as he had prior experience, Right now he is working as a senior Cloud Infrastructure Architect for a huge fintec company.

C. **What is one piece of advice for how I can be successful in the field?**
He advised me to get hands-on experience because practical experience is invaluable. He said I should start experimenting with cloud services and try building small projects like deploying applications and more to understand how they work in real-world experiences.

D. **What are my 2 biggest takeaways from the interview?**
   1. I should not be afraid to make mistakes but embrace failures as opportunities

> to learn and improve my skills.
>
> 2. I should develop problem-solving skills as cloud computing often involves solving complex problems. I must also learn how to troubleshoot issues, optimize cloud resources and design scalable solutions.

Step 8 - Option B: Watch Expert Videos

We have prepared a Youtube playlist for each specialization:

- [Data Analytics/ Science track](#)
- [Salesforce track](#)
- [AWS track](#)
- [Software Engineering track](#)

Choose 1 specialization's playlist and watch the videos from the playlist. As you watch the videos, answer the following questions:

Step 8 - Option B: Expert Video Insights

> **A. What are the job prospects looking like for my specialization, globally and locally?**
>
> **B. What kind of preparation must I make to become successful in this industry?**
>
> **C. What types of content do I need to consume on a regular basis to keep up to speed with my industry?**
>
> **D. What are my 2 biggest takeaways from the videos?**

Step 9: Information Exchange – Hub Activity #1

For your first hub activity, find at least 1 peer, and ideally a group of 2 or 3. We encourage you to find people who have chosen the same field/tech track as you, but it is

ok if they have a different track. Please share your answers to Steps 1-8 with one another, then answer the questions in the Step 9 box.

Step 9: Information Exchange

A. List the first and last name of at least 1 peer that you met with for this activity:
Priscilla Lande

B. What is one thing you learned from your peer/group?
Diligence, that is looking at things carefully so that I can master confidence to move ahead, "Be sure of the solution you have provided" they said.

C. What is one new question or curiosity about your industry that you have after exchanging information with your peer/group?
 How quick or how slow can one climb the ladder in terms of responsibilities and remuneration in cloud computing, especially as a Cloud Solutions Architect?

Please go back to Canvas and continue with your learning content. You will be prompted on when to return to complete Section B.

SECTION B: Hub Activity #2

Step 10: Reflection on Hub Activity: Imposter Syndrome
Who was the first and last name of the peer you partnered with on this exercise?

Step 10: Peer Name

Priscilla Lande

Step 11: Strategies

What strategy did you select? What strategy did your peer select?

Step 11: Strategy
A. **Your strategy:** Engage in self-care B. **Your peer's strategy:** Positive reinforcement

Step 12: Strategy Implementation

Describe what steps you took toward completing your strategy, and what steps your peer took toward completing theirs?

Step 12: Strategy Implementation
A . What steps did you take? Created a schedule of having weekly self care routines whereby I will get time to meditate, self-reflect and plan ahead. **B. What steps did your peer take?** Made daily notes of the positives she intends to accomplish on a daily basis, while doing that she looked at the positive aspect and how to improve on it.

Step 13: Bio

Please share at least 1 piece of feedback from your peer that you got on your bio.

Step 13: Feedback Received
I need to stay proactive at all times so that I stay ahead of my game and avoid rushing

in at the last minute which will cost me on understanding the important details.

Step 14: Bio

Please revise your bio to incorporate the feedback you received. Paste your best, most up-to-date version of your bio here. Remember, your bio is written in the 3rd person, narrative paragraph form (not a bulleted list) and it includes the following information:

1. Your name
2. Your current role or professional tagline
3. Your company or personal brand
4. Your goals and aspirations
5. Your 2 - 3 most impressive and relevant achievements

Step 14: Bio
Cedrich Mandeya is a top tier Frontend Web Developer and aspiring AWS Cloud Infrastructure Architect, passionate about crafting captivating user experiences and excelling in cloud technology. His primary role is to become an accomplished AWS Solution Architect, designing cutting-edge solutions for global businesses. Notably, he created and deployed on AWS, a fully functional e-commerce site for spare parts, showcasing his expertise in frontend development and AWS cloud. With a relentless commitment to learning and growth, Cedrich is set to make significant strides in the fields of Web Development and Cloud Computing.