First off, this will actually be a combination of three questions being answered together and they are all kind of related.

Kubernetes: While this is the hottest trend right now k8s is all about orchestration. If the new Calavera is going to be drawn up to more mass orchestration and dozens of nodes, then yes. If it is will continue to be more of a survey of CI/CD pipeline/infrastructure it seems like more complication than necessary. It would be nice to bring it up, and gain exposure through an example or lab, but the overcomplicated/extreme features and configurations of k8s in my opinion are overkill for the technical level of most the students in the class.

As for the class as a whole I enjoyed it. I actually loved it. It is the first class in a while that challenged me in a technical way. There was exposure to things I’ve never seen, and great principles/background on the current dev-ops movement to include not only the theory but also the why. This class put together a great sampling of overall IT delivery and overview of the industry. It was a reassuring acknowledgement that the direction my team(s) has been going in for a while is the right direction. And I learned a lot.

I especially loved working with Dockers. I have played with them in the past but what I had to do/learn to even make our small portion of the Calavera puzzle work took more time that I thought it would. I have had more command line time in this class than I have had at work in a long time.

While I have been exposed to some of the material and topics before, the organization and overall structure of the course made these ideas flow together nicely. The course covered a broad range of modern and relevant topics. I literally pulled up and referenced the chapter on monitoring while I was sitting in a meeting discussing redesigning our monitoring solution for the cloud.

So for suggestions. The cloud is here. How could that be integrated into the coursework. Maybe next time – or one in the future the class builds the same thing in Cloud Formation templates, or terraform. Every person with a .edu email address qualify for $100 a year credit from AWS. Maybe make your class or Jason Bakers a pre-req of the other one so that you can build off the other’s material. I’ve been standing servers up, and building all sorts of stuff out there for the last year and have maybe spent $18 of that first free money.

The tough part of this class was taht most students struggle with linux basics. This isn’t something taught in college really. While I loved my group, and we did all learn from each other my history and technical abilities made the project a whole different experience than what they had. I know that is an impossible task. I had a great time teaching them linux and walking them through the logic of my scripts. College needs to keep pushing them down that path and I’m glad this course did that. Far too many “admins” out there are point-and-click style Microsoft guys and gals. The cloud and the future needs people that can work the command line.

The only other suggestion I would have is to somehow differentiate or create ability groups. This is a tall order that I haven’t seen in college. Creating assignments/ or even pieces that adapt to various skill levels would be nice, but I have no idea how one would accomplish that.

Overall thought, a fantastic class. I’m recommending it to everyone (if only it wasn’t Friday night ☺). This course is one that I wish I could force my employees to take. I learned an incredible amount and I believe that everyone in the IT field could learn from the course. If the videos could be publically available, I’d love to show them to other people.

~Jason