Lab 5: Continuous Integration (CI) and Continuous Delivery (CD) with Kubernetes

Author: Badr TAJINI - DevOps Data for SWE - ESIEE - 2025

This lab guides you through setting up CI/CD pipelines using GitHub Actions, demonstrating integration with AWS using OpenID Connect (OIDC), and automating deployments with OpenTofu.

Objectives:

- Set up CI with automated tests (application and infrastructure).
- Configure OIDC authentication with AWS.
- Create an automated deployment pipeline with GitHub Actions and OpenTofu.
- Understand and apply different deployment strategies.
- Explore the concept of GitOps with Flux.

Prerequisites:

- GitHub account
- AWS account
- Local Kubernetes cluster (Docker Desktop with Kubernetes enabled or Minikube)
- Installed and configured tools: Git, Docker, kubectl, OpenTofu, npm, Node.js, aws-cli, flux

Part 1: Continuous Integration (CI)

Continuous Integration (CI) involves frequently merging code into a main branch (main), ideally several times a day. This allows for early detection and resolution of integration issues. To facilitate CI, prioritize trunk-based development with short-lived branches and pull requests. Employing a CI server and automated tests is crucial to ensure that the code remains functional at all times.

Key Principles of CI:

- Trunk-based development: Work on a single main branch with short-lived feature branches.
- Self-testing build: Automated tests are executed after each commit.

• CI server: Automates the build and test process.

Managing Merge Conflicts

Merge conflicts are inevitable when multiple developers work concurrently. Short-lived branches minimize the likelihood of conflicts, and frequent merges simplify their resolution.

Preventing Errors with Self-Testing Builds

A self-testing build, triggered after each commit, runs automated tests. This ensures that only code that passes the tests is merged into the main branch. If an error does slip through, the typical solution is to revert the offending commit to guickly restore a working state.

Handling Significant Changes

- Branch by Abstraction: For major refactorings, introduce an abstraction layer to make changes gradually without breaking existing code. Migrate modules to the abstraction incrementally, then modify the underlying implementation of the abstraction without impacting the modules.
- Feature Toggles: For new features, wrap the code in conditional statements controlled by feature toggles. This allows you to merge incomplete code into main without exposing the feature to users. Feature toggles are disabled by default.

Example: Running Automated Tests for the Application with GitHub Actions

Objective: Configure a GitHub Actions workflow to automatically run tests of the Node.js application after each push.

Steps:

1. Prepare the project:

Navigate to your main project directory and create a new directory

```
$ cd ~/devops_base
$ git checkout main
$ git pull origin main
```

• Create a new td5 folder and copy the sample-app folder from td4 into it:

```
$ mkdir -p td5
$ cp -r td4/scripts/sample-app td5/scripts/sample-app
```

2. Create the GitHub Actions workflow:

• Create the .github/workflows directory at the root of your repository.

```
$ mkdir -p .github/workflows
$ cd .github/workflows
```

• Create the file .github/workflows/app-tests.yml with the following content:

```
# .github/workflows/app-tests.yml (Example 5-2)
name: Sample App Tests

on: push

jobs:
    sample_app_tests:
    name: "Run Tests Using Jest"
    runs-on: ubuntu-latest
    steps:
    - uses: actions/checkout@v3
    - name: Install dependencies
        working-directory: td5/scripts/sample-app
    run: npm install
    - name: Run tests
    working-directory: td5/scripts/sample-app
    run: npm test
```

Explanation of the workflow:

- o name: Name of the workflow.
- on: push: Triggers the workflow on every push to any branch.
- o jobs: Defines the tasks to run.
 - sample_app_tests : Name of the job.
 - name : User-friendly name for the job.
 - runs-on: ubuntu-latest: Specifies the runner environment (Ubuntu).
 - steps : Sequence of steps to execute.

- uses: actions/checkout@v3: Checks out the source code from the repository.
- name: Install dependencies: Step named for dependency installation.
 - working-directory : Defines the working directory.
 - run: npm install: Executes the npm install command.
- name: Run tests: Step named for running tests.
 - working-directory : Defines the working directory.
 - run: npm test: Executes the npm test command.

3. Test the workflow:

• To try it out, first commit and push the sample app and workflow code to your repo:

```
$ git add td5/scripts/sample-app .github/workflows/app-tests.yml
$ git commit -m "Add sample-app and workflow"
$ git push origin main
```

Create a new branch:

```
$ git checkout -b test-workflow
```

o Introduce an intentional error in td5/scripts/sample-app/app.js (e.g., change the response text to "DevOps Labs!").

```
// Example 5-3: Update the app response text (td5/scripts/sample-app/app.js)
res.send('DevOps Labs!');
```

Commit and push the changes:

```
$ git add td5/scripts/sample-app/app.js
$ git commit -m "Introduce intentional error"
$ git push origin test-workflow
```

- Create a pull request (PR) on GitHub.
- Observe the workflow execution in the "Actions" tab of the PR. It should fail.
- Click on "Details" to see the cause of the failure.
- Correct the test in td5/scripts/sample-app/app.test.js:

```
// Example 5-4: Update the test to expect the new response
(td5/scripts/sample-app/app.test.js)
expect(response.text).toBe('DevOps Labs!');
```

Commit and push the fix.

```
$ git add td5/scripts/sample-app/app.test.js
$ git commit -m "Update response text in test"
$ git push origin test-workflow
```

Observe that the workflow re-runs and succeeds.

1.4. Machine User Credentials and Automatically-Provisioned Credentials

To run infrastructure tests (OpenTofu) that deploy AWS resources, you need to configure authentication

Never use a real user's credentials for automation. Instead, use:

- Machine User Credentials: A dedicated user account for automation with limited permissions. Drawbacks: manual credential management, long-lived credentials.
- Automatically-Provisioned Credentials (e.g., OIDC): Dynamically generated credentials, often with short lifespans. More secure and recommended when possible.

1.5. Example: Configure OIDC with AWS and GitHub Actions

Objective: Set up OIDC to allow GitHub Actions to authenticate to AWS securely.

Steps:

- 1. Create an OIDC provider in AWS:
 - Use the provided Terraform module github-aws-oidc that lives in the td5/scripts/tofu/modules/github-aws-oidc folder to configure GitHub as an OIDC provider in your AWS account.
 - Switch back to the main branch, pull down the latest changes (i.e., the PR you just merged), and create a new branch called opentofu-tests:

```
$ git checkout main
$ git pull origin main
$ git checkout -b opentofu-tests
```

• Create a root module in td5/scripts/tofu/live/ci-cd-permissions.

```
$ mkdir -p td5/scripts/tofu/live/ci-cd-permissions
$ cd td5/scripts/tofu/live/ci-cd-permissions
```

• Configure the github-aws-oidc module in td5/scripts/tofu/live/ci-cd-permissions/main.tf:

(Example 5-5, modified)

```
provider "aws" {
   region = "us-east-2" # Replace with your desired region
}

module "oidc_provider" {
   source = "github.com/your_github_name/devops-base//td5/scripts/tofu/modules/github-aws-oidc"
   provider_url = "https://token.actions.githubusercontent.com"
}
```

2. Create IAM roles for testing and deployment:

- Use the provided Terraform module gh-actions-iam-roles to create IAM roles with specific permissions for testing and deploying your infrastructure.
- o Configure the iam_roles module in td5/scripts/tofu/live/ci-cdpermissions/main.tf:

(Example 5-6, modified)

```
module "oidc provider" {
 # ... (other params omitted) ...
}
module "iam roles" {
  source = "github.com/your github name/devops-
base//td5/scripts/tofu/modules/gh-actions-iam-roles"
                    = "lambda-sample"
  name
  oidc provider arn = module.oidc provider.oidc provider arn
  enable iam role for testing = true
  enable iam role for plan = true # Add for plan role
  enable_iam_role_for_apply = true # Add for apply role
  # TODO: Replace with your own GitHub repo name!
  github repo = "YOUR GITHUB USERNAME/YOUR GITHUB REPO" # ex: "bta-
devops/cloud-native-devops-kubernetes-2e"
  lambda base name = "lambda-sample"
  tofu_state_bucket = "YOUR_S3_BUCKET_NAME" # Replace with your bucket name
  tofu_state_dynamodb_table = "YOUR_DYNAMODB_TABLE_NAME" # Replace with your
table name
}
```

Explanation:

- name: Base name for the IAM roles and other resources created by this module.
- oidc provider arn: ARN of the OIDC provider you created earlier.
- enable_iam_role_for_testing, enable_iam_role_for_plan, enable_iam_role_for_apply: Set to true to create IAM roles for testing, planning, and applying, respectively.
- github_repo: Replace with your own GitHub repository name (YOUR_GITHUB_USERNAME/YOUR_REPO_NAME).
- lambda_base_name : Must match the name used in the lambda-sample module.
- tofu_state_bucket and tofu_state_dynamodb_table : Replace with the names of your S3 bucket and DynamoDB table (which you'll configure later).
- Create td5/scripts/tofu/live/ci-cd-permissions/outputs.tf to output the ARNs of the created IAM roles:

(Example 5-7, modified)

```
output "lambda_test_role_arn" {
description = "The ARN of the IAM role for testing"
value = module.iam_roles.lambda_test_role_arn
}
```

3. Deploy the infrastructure:

```
cd td5/scripts/tofu/live/ci-cd-permissions
tofu init
tofu apply
```

Note down the output values: lambda_test_role_arn , lambda_deploy_plan_role_arn ,
 lambda deploy apply role arn .

1.6. Running Automated Infrastructure Tests

Objective: Configure a GitHub Actions workflow to run OpenTofu tests using OIDC authentication.

Steps:

- 1. Copy infrastructure code: Copy the lambda-sample and test-endpoint modules from td4/scripts/tofu to td4/scripts/tofu.
- 2. Update lambda-sample module:
 - Add td5/scripts/tofu/live/lambda-sample/variables.tf to allow configuring the base name for resources

(Example 5-8)

```
variable "name" {
  description = "The base name for the function and all other resources"
  type = string
  default = "lambda-sample"
}
```

• Modify td5/scripts/tofu/live/main.tf to use var.name instead of hard-coded values (Example 5-9).

(Example 5-9, modified)

```
#
module "function" {
    # ... (other params omitted) ...
    name = var.name
}

module "gateway" {
    # ... (other params omitted) ...
    name = var.name
}
```

3. **Create the workflow file:** Create .github/workflows/infra-tests.yml with the following content:

```
# name: Infrastructure Tests
on: push
jobs:
opentofu test:
   name: "Run OpenTofu tests"
   runs-on: ubuntu-latest
   permissions:
   id-token: write
   contents: read
   steps:
    - uses: actions/checkout@v2
    - uses: aws-actions/configure-aws-credentials@v3
       with:
        # TODO: fill in your IAM role ARN!
        role-to-assume: arn:aws:iam::111111111111111111role/lambda-sample-tests
        role-session-name: tests-${{ github.run_number }}-${{ github.actor }}
        aws-region: us-east-2
  - uses: opentofu/setup-opentofu@v1
  - name: Tofu Test
      TF_VAR_name: lambda-sample-${{ github.run_id }}
   working-directory: td5/scripts/tofu/live/lambda-sample
      tofu init -backend=false -input=false
      tofu test -verbose
```

Explanations:

- o permissions: Adds necessary permissions for OIDC (id-token: write) and writing to pull requests (pull-requests: write).
- o role-to-assume: Replace with the value of lambda_test_role_arn and store it in a GitHub secret named TEST_ROLE_ARN.
- uses: hashicorp/setup-terraform@v3: Corrected to use the official Terraform setup action.
- env: TF_VAR_name: Defines an environment variable to ensure unique resource names for each test run.
- terraform init: Initializes the working directory with -backend=false to disable remote state for tests.
- terraform test: Executes the OpenTofu tests.
- 4. Commit, push, and create a pull request:

```
git add .
git commit -m "Add infrastructure tests workflow"
git push origin opentofu-tests
```

Create a pull request on GitHub.

5. Observe workflow execution: Go to the "Actions" tab on GitHub and monitor the workflow.

Part 2: Continuous Delivery (CD)

Continuous Delivery (CD) automates the deployment process to enable fast, reliable and frequent deliveries.

Deployment strategies

Familiarise yourself with the different deployment strategies and their characteristics:

Strategy	User Experience	Stateless Applications	Support
Downtime Deployment	Service Interruption	Supported	Widely Supported
Progressive Deployment without Replacement	Alternation between versions	Supported	Not Supported
Progressive Deployment with Replacement	Alternating between versions	Supported	Variable Support (depends on disk movement)
Blue/Green Deployment	Instant Failover	Supported	Not Supported
Canary Deployment	Initial deployment to a single replica	Supported	Dependent on primary deployment policy
Deployment by Feature Toggles	Deploy code without enabling features	Supported	Depends on primary deployment strategy
Deployment by Promotion	Progressive deployment across environments	Supported	Dependent on the main deployment strategy

Recommendations:

- Unstated applications:** Blue/green deployment if possible, otherwise progressive deployment without replacement.
- Applications with state:** Progressive deployment with replacement.
- Complex data migrations:** Planned downtime can sometimes be simpler and less risky. Complementary strategies:
- Canary:** Reduces the impact of faulty deployments by initially deploying to a single instance.
- Feature Toggles:** Allows code to be deployed without activating new features, enabling progressive activation and rollbacks.
- Promotion:** Deploys code across multiple environments (dev, staging, prod) for more indepth testing.

Deployment pipelines

A deployment pipeline automates the deployment stages, from commit to release. It is preferable to run the pipeline on a dedicated deployment server for consistency, repeatability and security.

Example: Automated deployment pipeline with GitHub Actions

Objective: Set up a deployment pipeline for the lambda-sample module which runs on *pull requests* (plan) and after they have been merged (apply). **Steps**:

• To use the state-bucket module, first check out the main branch of your own repo, and make sure you have the latest code:

```
$ cd ~/devops_base
$ git checkout main
$ git pull origin main
```

Next, create a new folder called tofu-state to use as a root module:

```
$ mkdir -p td5/scripts/tofu/live/tofu-state
$ cd td5/scripts/tofu/live/tofu-state
```

1. Configuration of the Remote Backend for OpenTofu State:

Create an S3 bucket and a DynamoDB table to store the OpenTofu state remotely. You can use the state-bucket module provided in the code
 (td5/scripts/tofu/modules/state-bucket).

Configure the state-bucket mdoule in td5/scripts/tofu/live/tofu-state/main.tf

```
provider "aws" {
   region = "us-east-2" # Your AWS region
}

module "state" {
   source = "github.com/your_github_name/devops-base//td5/scripts/tofu/modules/state-bucket"
   name = "YOUR-UNIQUE-BUCKET-NAME" # Replace with a unique name
}
```

• To create the S3 bucket and DynamoDB table, run init and apply as usual:

```
$ tofu init
$ tofu apply
```

 Create a backend.tf file in td5/scripts/tofu/live/tofu-state/ (td5/scripts/tofu/live/tofu-state/backend.tf):

(Example 5-12, to be adapted)

• Run tofu init one more time, and you should see something like this:

```
$ tofu init
```

```
Initializing the backend...

Do you want to copy existing state to the new backend?

Pre-existing state was found while migrating the previous "local" backend to the newly configured "s3" backend. No existing state was found in the newly configured "s3" backend. Do you want to copy this state to the new "s3" backend? Enter "yes" to copy and "no" to start with an empty state.

Enter a value:
```

OpenTofu will automatically detect that you already have a state file locally and prompt you to copy it to the new S3 backend. If you type yes and hit ENTER, you should see the following:

```
Successfully configured the backend "s3"! OpenTofu will automatically use this backend unless the backend configuration changes.
```

 Update the lambda-sample module module to use S3 as a backend (td5/scripts/tofu/live/lambda-sample/backend.tf).

(Example 5-13, to be adapted)

• Run tofu init in the tofu-state and lambda-sample directories to initialize the remote backend.

2. Creating IAM Roles for Deployment:

 Modify the ci-cd-permissions module to enable the creation of IAM roles for plan and apply in td5/scripts/tofu/live/ci-cd-permissions/main.tf.

(Example 5-14, modified)

```
module "iam roles" {
  source = "github.com/your github name/devops-
base//td5/scripts/tofu/modules/gh-actions-iam-roles"
                         = "lambda-sample"
  name
                        = module.oidc_provider.oidc_provider_arn
 oidc_provider_arn
  enable_iam_role_for_testing = true
  enable_iam_role_for_plan = true
  enable_iam_role_for_apply = true
                            = "YOUR USERNAME/YOUR REPO" # Replace
  github repo
 lambda base name
                           = "lambda-sample"
 tofu_state_bucket = "YOUR_S3_BUCKET_NAME" # Replace
 tofu_state_dynamodb_table = "YOUR_DYNAMODB_TABLE_NAME" # Replace
}
```

• Add output variables for the ARNs of the new roles in td5/scripts/tofu/live/ci-cd-permissions/outputs.tf.

(Example 5-15, modified)

```
output "lambda_deploy_plan_role_arn" {
  description = "The ARN of the IAM role for plan"
  value = module.iam_roles.lambda_deploy_plan_role_arn
}

output "lambda_deploy_apply_role_arn" {
  description = "The ARN of the IAM role for apply"
  value = module.iam_roles.lambda_deploy_apply_role_arn
}
```

- Run tofu apply to create the IAM roles.
- Note the output values lambda_deploy_plan_role_arn and lambda_deploy_apply_role_arn.
- 3. Creating GitHub Actions Workflows for Deployment:
 - The workflow to run .github/workflows/tofu-plan.yml/tofu-plan.yml (Example 5-16, to be adapted):

```
name: Tofu Plan
on:
    pull_request:
        branches: ["main"]
        paths: ["td5/scripts/tofu/live/lambda-sample/**"]
jobs:
    plan:
        name: "Tofu Plan"
        runs-on: ubuntu-latest
        permissions:
            pull-requests: write
            id-token: write
            contents: read
        steps:
            - uses: actions/checkout@v2
            - uses: aws-actions/configure-aws-credentials@v3
                with:
                    # TODO: fill in your IAM role ARN!
                    role-to-assume: arn:aws:iam::11111111111111:role/lambda-
sample-plan
                    role-session-name: plan-${{ github.run_number }}-${{
github.actor }}
                    aws-region: us-east-2
            - uses: opentofu/setup-opentofu@v1
            - name: tofu plan
                id: plan
                working-directory: td5/scripts/tofu/live/lambda-sample
                    tofu init -no-color -input=false
                    tofu plan -no-color -input=false -lock=false
            - uses: peter-evans/create-or-update-comment@v4
                if: always()
                env:
                    RESULT EMOJI: ${{ steps.plan.outcome == 'success' && ' \sqrt{'}
with:
                    issue-number: ${{ github.event.pull_request.number }}
                    body:
                        ## ${{ env.RESULT_EMOJI }} `tofu plan` output
                        ```${{ steps.plan.outputs.stdout }}```
```

- This workflow is triggered on *pull requests* targeting the main branch and modifying files in td5/scripts/tofu/live/lambda-sample/\*\*.
- It uses the aws-actions/configure-aws-credentials@v3 action to authenticate with AWS via OIDC, assuming the IAM role specified by the GitHub secret PLAN\_ROLE\_ARN (which you need to create and configure with the plan role ARN).
- It runs terraform init and then terraform plan to generate the execution plan.
- It uses the actions/github-script@v7 action to post the execution plan as a comment on the *pull request*. The code has been broken down to make it more readable.
- Important: The code has been corrected to use terraform instead of tofu because the hashicorp/setup-terraform action is being used.
- \*\*The workflow to run .github/workflows/tofu-apply.yml

(Example 5-17, to be adapted):

```
name: Tofu Apply
on:
 push:
 branches: ["main"]
 paths: ["td5/scripts/tofu/live/lambda-sample/**"]
jobs:
 apply:
 name: "Tofu Apply"
 runs-on: ubuntu-latest
 permissions:
 pull-requests: write
 id-token: write
 contents: read
 steps:
 - name: Checkout repository
 uses: actions/checkout@v2
 - name: Configure AWS credentials
 uses: aws-actions/configure-aws-credentials@v3
 with:
 sample-apply
 role-session-name: apply-${{ github.run number }}-${{
github.actor }}
 aws-region: us-east-2
 - name: Setup OpenTofu
 uses: opentofu/setup-opentofu@v1
 name: Tofu apply
 id: apply
 working-directory: td5/scripts/tofu/live/lambda-sample
 tofu init -no-color -input=false
 tofu apply -no-color -input=false -lock-timeout=60m -auto-
approve
 - name: Find current PR
 uses: jwalton/gh-find-current-pr@master
 id: find pr
 with:
 state: all
 - name: Create or update comment
 uses: peter-evans/create-or-update-comment@v4
 if: steps.find_pr.outputs.number
 RESULT_EMOJI: ${{ steps.apply.outcome == 'success' &&
'✓' || '<u>M</u>' }}
 with:
```

```
issue-number: ${{ steps.find_pr.outputs.number }}
body: |
 ## ${{ env.RESULT_EMOJI }} `tofu apply` output
    ```${{ steps.apply.outputs.stdout }}```
```

Explanation:

- This workflow is triggered by **pushes to the** main branch and if the modified files are in td5/scripts/tofu/live/lambda-sample/**.
- It uses the aws-actions/configure-aws-credentials@v3 action to authenticate with AWS via OIDC, assuming the IAM role specified by the GitHub secret APPLY_ROLE_ARN (which you need to create and configure with the apply role ARN).
- It runs terraform init and then terraform apply to apply the changes.
- It uses the actions/github-script@v7 action to post the output of the terraform apply command as a comment on the associated pull request.

4. Test the deployment pipeline:

• Commit these new workflow files directly to the main branch and then push them to GitHub:

```
$ git add .github/workflows
$ git commit -m "Add plan and apply workflows"
$ git push origin main
```

Create a new branch:

```
git checkout -b deployment-pipeline-test
```

Make a change to the lambda-sample module, such as changing the text it returns, as shown in (Example 5-18) by update the app response text in td5/scripts/tofu/live/lambda-sample/src/index.js

```
exports.handler = (event, context, callback) => {
  callback(null, {statusCode: 200, body: "DevOps Labs!"});
};
```

Update the response text in the tests td5/scripts/tofu/live/lambda-sample/deploy.tftest.hcl (Example 5-19):

```
assert {
  condition = data.http.test_endpoint.response_body == "Fundamentals of
DevOps!"
  error_message = "Unexpected body: ${data.http.test_endpoint.response_body}"
}
```

Commit and push the changes:

```
git add td5/scripts/tofu/live/lambda-sample/src/index.js
td5/scripts/tofu/live/lambda-sample/deploy.tftest.hcl
git commit -m "Update response text"
git push origin deployment-pipeline-test
```

- Create a pull request on GitHub.
- Observe the execution of the app-tests , infra-tests , and tofu-plan workflows.
- Verify the comment with the tofu plan output.
- Merge the pull request.
- Observe the execution of the tofu-apply workflow and the publication of the output in a comment.

Important:

- Remember to replace placeholder values (like S3 bucket names, DynamoDB table names, and IAM role ARNs) with your own values.
- Store the IAM role ARNs in GitHub secrets named PLAN_ROLE_ARN and APPLY_ROLE_ARN.

Exercise [Practice]

Here are a few exercises you can try at home to go deeper:

- Update the pipeline to automatically detect changes in an any folder with OpenTofu code (rather than only the lambda-sample folder), and to automatically run plan and apply in each one (see changed-files action).
- If a PR updates multiple folders, use a matrix strategy to run plan and apply across multiple folders concurrently.

Conclusion

This lab has covered the essentials of setting up CI/CD pipelines with GitHub Actions, OpenTofu, and Kubernetes. You've learned how to automate tests, manage infrastructure deployments, and implement key DevOps principles. Remember to adapt the code examples to your specific needs and explore the documentation of the tools used for a deeper understanding.