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Assignment 4

What I did:

Using IBM Cloud I recreated Assignment 3. To do this I made 2 storage buckets and a function to trigger off the main bucket. For a function to work in IBM it must contain a trigger and inside the trigger an action. The trigger must be set up properly containing the correct permissions that are in sync with the region the buckets exist in. Once the trigger was created I could write the Python code inside the action that would copy the file that gets added to the backup bucket and create a log file. The code to do this was very similar to an AWS function as they use almost the same boto3 library for python.

During this assignment I also explored GCP’s App Engine. To start I investigated all of the thing App Engine could do and tried out a few of the tutorials. Once I got an understanding of how it worked, I took one of the examples and changed it to something I was interested in doing. I took the basic tutorial on how to use App Engine to host a basic website and adapted it to host a more complex website that I create in a previous class (CIS\*1050). To complete the tutorial, it involved using the built-in command line (Cloud Shell) on GCP’s website to test and launch a hello world webpage. This did not involve and html pages or styling pages. From there using Cloud Shell I was able to test as I added html pages that had images and a style sheet. Once I figured out how to get the pages to link and display the pages nicely, I could deploy the website with the updated changed back to App Engine. Once deployed I investigated the logging GCP offers with App Engine so that I could monitor my website and, in the future, when I want to host a website for employers, see the traffic I get.

The step by step of what I did for both IBM Cloud and GCP can be found in README.txt.

Why I did it:

The reason I recreated Assignment 3 on IBM Cloud was to see the differences in some of the cloud platforms available. In my co-op terms I got some exposure to the world of cloud but nothing outside of what the company did. After getting the chance in this class to work with AWS and GCP for Assignment 3 I was curious how easy this could be a cloud platform that was not one of the ‘Big 3’.

I decided to investigate GCP’s App Engine because while looking at GCP for Assignment 3 I was curious of what the platform could do. After doing a few tutorials I chose to adopt the website hosting since I have looked at AWS’ hosting in the past and this option seemed cheaper for a website to show future employers.

What I learned:

While using IBM Cloud I learned that all cloud platforms are not built the same. The IBM Cloud was much harder to navigate and use than either of AWS or GCP. The setup alone of the function in IBM took so much longer and was way more convoluted. The built-in logging for both AWS and GCP was more intuitive and easier to find. The logs for IBM were per trigger and much harder to read. If in the future I have to decide what cloud to use for my company this has shown me to really look at what you have to do with the cloud and decide what to pick based on that.

Using GCP’s App Engine I learned how easy the cloud has made it to do things that would have taken much more setup in the past. App Engine made it so easy to host and monitor a website in just a few clicks. I will defiantly be using GCP to host my website for future employers.