

My Journey on Bertelsmann Cloud Track

I'm in my 40s and have been in finance for more than 17 years. Although I have a Bachelor degree in Engineering, I'm not really a tech savvy person. At home I rely on my husband to set up my computer and hook up wires. At work I can't function without the assistance of IT help desk. You would never imagine someone like me to sign up Bertelsmann Technology Challenge. While to be honest, deep in my heart I still like to challenge myself to learn new things. The world is changing fast around me and I need to keep up with leading edge technologies. Last year I enrolled in Bertelsmann Data Science Scholarship Challenge. I had a taste of how Udacity online course work for the first time. I was invigorated by the enthusiasm emanated from fellow scholars all around the world. They provided invaluable technical and social support that enabled me to complete my Data Foundation Nanodegree.

The second time around, I jumped at the opportunity when Bertelsmann offered another Technology Scholarship with Udacity. I chose Cloud Computing Track because I was curious of what the cloud computing all about. I had no background in Cloud computing but the course was presented in such a succinct way that I had no problem to follow. First I learned how to do version control using git. I signed up a GitHub account and created my very first repository. GitHub opens up a whole new world to me in an amazing way. I was able to fork my fellow scholars' notes to my account without having to look for them. I cloned some of the codes to my local computer and was able to do my exercises without recreating all those codes.

I also learned the basics of Cloud DevOps and AWS management. I signed up for an AWS account and was able to launch an EC2 instance, create a VPC, add storage and security group, assign administrative roles in AWS console. I learned the hard way how to connect to EC2 using SSH command. After failed many times, I had to solicit fellow scholars' help and finally found the answer on Stack Overflow. I installed AWS Command Line Interface (CLI) on my computer. Suddenly I was able to create a whole infrastructure through CloudFormation by using codes only. That was exciting! Of course for a tech newbie like me, I stumbled numerously on how to deploy the infrastructure using CLI. I had to search AWS documentation to find the right commands. It was a very rewarding learning experience. I thoroughly enjoyed it. In the end I got through it, of course with a lot of help from the Cloud community.

I feel extremely grateful for the opportunity Bertelsmann offered and I took it seriously. Looking back, I can't believe how much I've learned. Should I still call myself a tech newbie?:)