Can you explain the automation you have coded that you are most proud of?

While I have worked complex deployments - such as fully automated pipelines to build, stage, test and deploy auto-scaling Hadoop environments using CloudBreak, these projects are scoped and assigned both value and resources depending on their impact to the business.

I am always close to the end user either as part of my role or due to my personality in knowing everyone and all the inputs and effects that the systems I build and maintain affect - and many times solutions can be over engineered when the end user is not involved - leading to increased risk (due to technical engineers making assumptions) or inefficient use of engineers and services to deliver solutions.

My personal automation win involves a simple solution using Microsoft Flow (now Power Apps)- not for the complexity of the solution, but for two factors

- using Microsoft Flows I was able to engage end user SME's with existing access to various service's that are available in Microsoft Flow
- walking through workflows of what was needed and identifying that each stage has a step available in Flows

delivering a step by step flow to identify new files into 3rd party data store

1. validate the transfer
2. transform data using regex
3. ingest data into O365
4. alert SME or staff of new data ingestion

The simple flow not only allowed us to remove planning time to "engineer" a solution via traditional sprint, but allowed us to leverage existing products within existing budgets while introducing the senior management to the benefit of SME driven solutions

Using the example project, I was able to remove over 20 epics from the Data team boards by educating the business of what was available, what could and should be achieved while ensuring that process and version was introduced - along with documentation for once undocumented processes

- introduced cost saving by using existing projects
- cost saving in engineer time and effort
- risk reduction by SME driven solutions (validated by review with Infra engineers)
- risk reduction by now automated (but also documented) business critical workflows