😊 Exploring Work Folder

Summary

In this lab, we are exploring the **work folder** created during the self-hosted agent setup in Azure DevOps. This folder contains the **source code** pulled from Azure Repos and the **build output** after modifying the pipeline.

Steps Overview

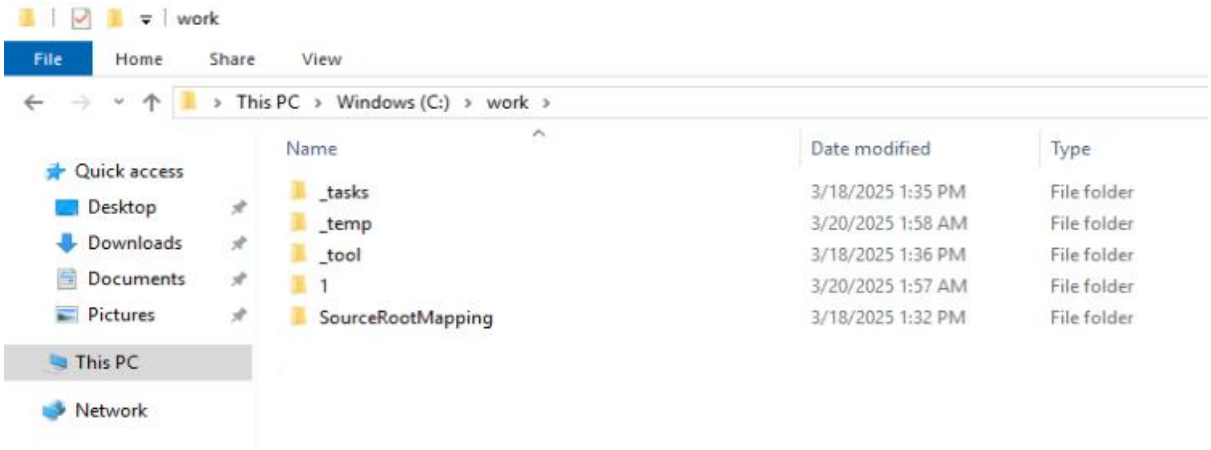
1. Navigate to the **work folder** in the VM and examine its structure.
2. Locate the **source code** inside the s folder but notice that the **build output is missing**.
3. Modify the **Azure DevOps pipeline** to ensure the build artifacts are generated and published.
4. Re-run the pipeline and verify that the build is now **persisted** inside the **a** folder.
5. Extract the **zip file** containing the compiled build inside the work folder.

End Goal

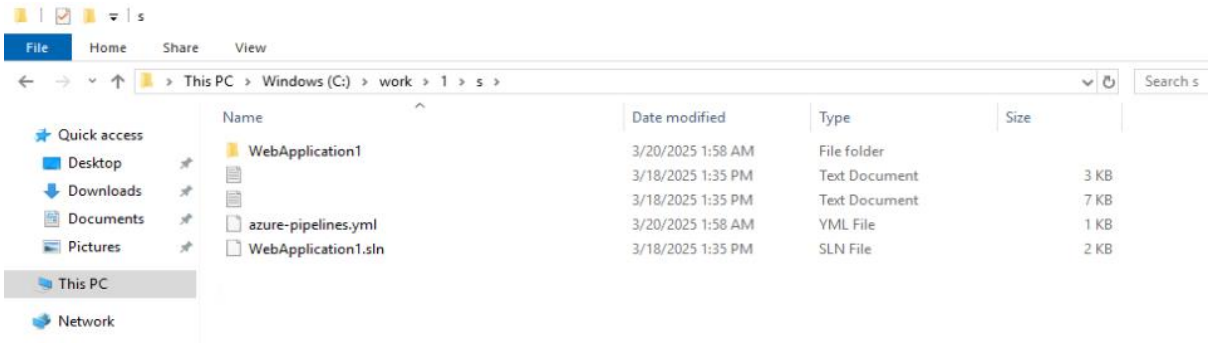
The objective is to **persist build outputs** in the self-hosted agent's work folder, ensuring the artifacts are available for deployment. This allows for **faster subsequent builds** and better control over the build environment.

😄 To begin with the Lab

1. In the previous lab, we created our self-hosted agent and ran the pipeline using the agent.
2. If you remember while starting the agent we created a work folder now we are going to explore that folder.
3. In the VM, if you go to the work folder there are other folders in place. This is a structure that is adopted by Azure pipelines when it comes to the execution of the pipelines themselves.

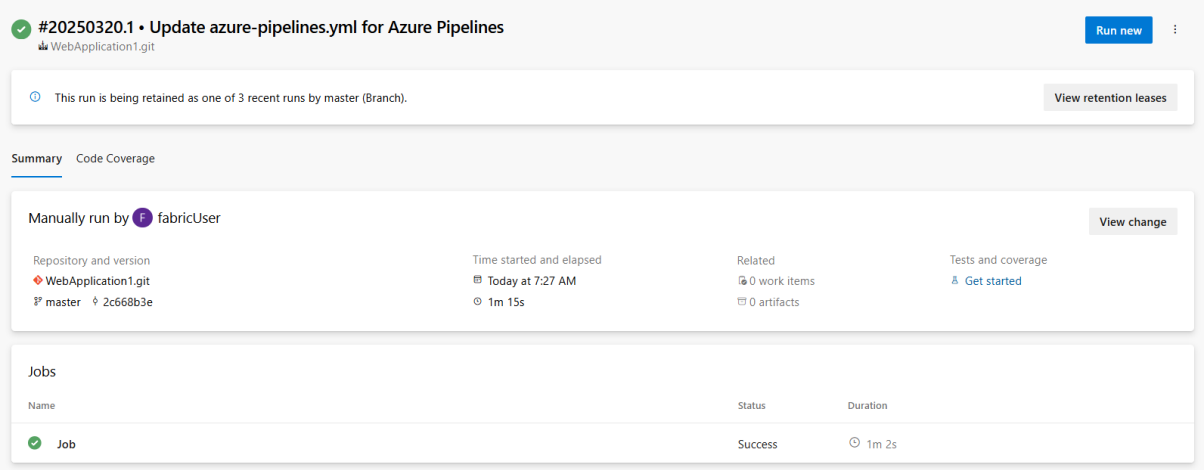


4. If you go to the 1 folder and then move to the s folder you will see the source code that is picked from the Azure Repos.

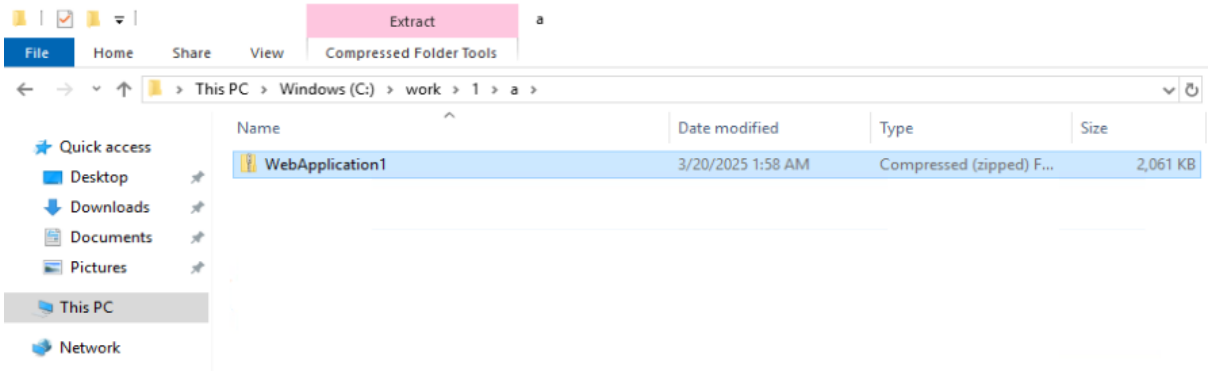


5. So, the entire point of using self-hosted agent is we should be able to persist our build but all we can see here is the source code. We can't see the build of our application but the pipeline clearly mentioned that it had done a complete build.
6. Now open your pipeline and click on edit, then you need to add these lines of code that you can see below.
7. These lines of code will help the pipeline to build our source code and then publish it as well.

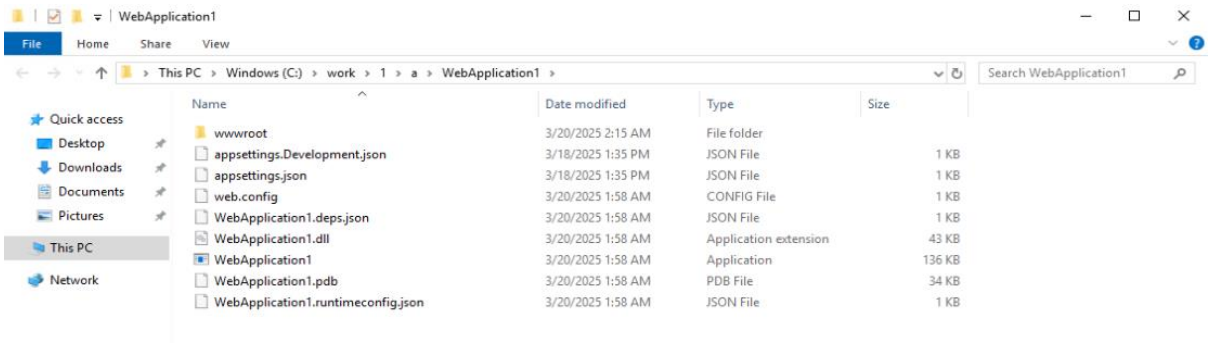
8. Save and validate your pipeline then click on Run. Here you can see that our pipeline ran successfully.



9. Open your VM and go to the work folder then navigate to 1 and then a folder you will see a zip file of your build. Extract it.



10. Below you can see the complete build of your Pipeline.



Note: Once you are done with the lab just go ahead and delete the Virtual Machine from Azure Portal.