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CSYE 6225

Reflection Assignment

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Exercise: Reflection, Feelings and Analysis of Experiences

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* Lecture 1

The first lecture for 6225 course started with knowing all the class mates and knowing more about the professor. Each one of us was told to stand up and give a brief discussion about our background. We got to know who our classmates are and what experiences they hold.

After this, the professor introduced himself and told a few words about his expertise and experiences. I was thrilled to know that the professor teaching this course hold a vast experience in the same field. This will surely make the course more interesting and industry oriented. Later on, minor discussions relating exams, project and marks distribution were done.

* Lecture 2

This lecture included some interesting presentation slides and discussions on what basically cloud computing is. It also had some information about the Internet protocol. Also an intro on AWS was given in this lecture. I was excited to know that now I am going to start using this wonderful tool. Instructions on opening a new student account was given.

After this lecture, I realized that Professor Cooper’s class were less of theory and more of interaction. I was a bit worried at this point of time as I thought this will make things more difficult for me bring naïve in the field.

* Lecture 3

As we had to submit the first assignment before this class, I spent most of the time during the week on Lynda, learning some basic things about AWS. Also I read the first chapter of the book “Cloud Computing Design Patters” which was suggested by Professor in last class. In this assignment, I learnt how to create an AWS account and get an Ubuntu instance started. I installed owncloud on my instance and using FTP transferred some files on the server and captured the network packets using wireshark. Overall, it was good assignment as I learnt using this wonderful tool Wireshark.

In the class, few mates explained how they went ahead with this assignment and the challenges faced by them. We then overall discussed certain difficulties in this assignment and knew something more about using Wireshark. The lecture ended with brief discussion on IP and BGP protocol and some questions from the initial chapter of the book.

* Lecture 4

The assignment to be submitted before the class was an extension to the previous assignment. But this time it was trickier and difficult to implement because of many new concepts. From this assignment I learnt what load balancing and auto scaling is. I created my own load balancer and auto scaling group. I installed proFTP on my server and filezilla in my computer to transfer files. I even used webmin which is a web UI for your Ubuntu instance. As the load on my instance increased, it automatically created more instances to handle the load. During low times, the instances were taken out.

The lecture consisted of discussions on how the assignment was done by a few mates and the ways to overcome difficulties. More detailed discussions on different types of load balancing was done and how it is used in real world. Professor informed us to read about Map Reduce, BigTable, memcache, DynamoDB etc to be discussed in next class. We were also told to create groups for the final project.

* Lecture 5

Even this lecture started with the discussion on the submitted assignment. This assignment was related to security. We installed apache on the instance and configured it to use SSL. Now I can access my sever using https protocol. We created self-signed certificates and assigned it to the instance. We also implemented authentication, wherein to view the web page you need login credentials. It was really a very meaningful assignment.

In the lecture, 2 final project specifications were shown by the professor and we were asked to choose one. After some discussion on both topics, we all came to a unified decision.

* Summary and Feedback

Though I had a fear of not coping up in this class full of discussions, the assignments given were just wonderful as they helped me learn some awesome things like starting an instance, create load balancers and auto scale groups, load balancing on the server, configuring apache and other things on the server and securing the server and much more.

Still, I would personally prefer a bit more explanation from the professor rather than just discussions on assignments. This would help students know more about the things being covered.

I look forward to learning Azure in future classes. I would also appreciate one or maybe two classes for Docker.