**Empowering Growth: Agile Cloud Solutions and Decision-Making in a Tech Startup**

In my Capstone project with the innovative startup Smash Group LLC., I have had a multifaceted role as the team lead and acting project manager, taking charge of pivotal responsibilities, including decision-making, collaboration, and team building. It has been an immersive experience where being a leader and decision-making have a real difference in driving the startup's success.

Central to the project was the analysis of alternatives, where I carefully evaluated various Azure services, capitalizing on my certification in Azure Fundamentals from Microsoft. The Cloud Team meticulously evaluated and selected the most suitable technologies, ensuring seamless implementation of our chosen solutions.

The project's primary focus was the development of a dynamic web application, which necessitated rapid prototyping to keep pace with the fast-moving startup environment, enabling us to adapt quickly when needed. My contributions to Internet application development were bolstered by the strategic use of industry-standard tools like VSCode, GitHub, and Figma.

Moreover, I actively engaged in comprehensive database design, crafting an efficient Entity-Relationship Diagram (ERD) and building a robust database infrastructure tailored to Smash's unique requirements. The seamless integration of the web application with the SQL database was a significant accomplishment, ensuring smooth data interaction.

We’ve successfully used agile methodologies, utilizing Linear, enabling the team to achieve productivity and collaboration excellence during sprints. Effective communication was fostered through the skillful utilization of Discord, with dedicated team channels, and Google Drive for streamlined document sharing and notes.

One notable highlight of the project was securing Smash's entry into the prestigious Microsoft for Startups Program, unlocking $5000 worth of Azure Credits and additional benefits like GitHub Enterprise and OpenAI credits.

This capstone experience facilitated my professional growth, empowering me with cloud architecture expertise through my Azure certification, while also equipping me with a diverse set of practical skills that align perfectly with real-world industry demands. As I reflect on this enriching journey, I am confident that it will serve as a cornerstone in my career trajectory, propelling me toward a future filled with new challenges and remarkable achievements in the technology domain.

Kevin Carlson