

Phone number to Vanity number

Logic behind the conversion

1. First, `generateVanityObj` lambda restructures all the words in the English dictionary in a way it is easier to lookup up the vanity words for a phone number. filter out words that are more than 10 character long words (as phone numbers are maxed 10 numbers long, excluding the country extension, this limit might break things when the phone numbers are longer than 10).
2. This restructured dictionary object will contain a phone number substring for the corresponding words, making it faster to look up the word in a smaller space than the entire dictionary. (refer to the `vanity.json` file in the bucket after running the `generateVanityObj.js`)
3. This is a *generate once and use forever* strategy. Hence the `vanity.json` can be generated in build time or every time a word is either added or deleted from the dictionary. Though for the implementation of this code, this function needs to be run manually first.
4. The generated array of words for a corresponding phone number substring is sorted in the order of the frequency (dataset 2) of the words. This is used to determine the **best vanity** among all the possible vanity numbers. The more the frequency of words, the easier it will be to remember the words.
5. Second `vanityLookup` lambda loops over the `vanity.json` for every phone number passed. Then returns an object grouped by its word length sorted in the order of high-frequency words. Once Top X vanity is found, it then pushes the phone number and found vanity numbers in dynamodb and updates the `lastcaller.json` for the last 5 phone numbers.
6. Top X vanity is simply the most frequent **Longest** word found in the generated dictionary (`vanity.json`). Longer the word, the lesser the numbers to remember.
7. `public` folder in the s3 bucket is used to display the last 5 calls and vanity numbers on the web page.

Datasets used

1. Words in the English dictionary. A text file containing over 466k English words. [Source](#)
2. Frequency of words. Contains 1/3 Million records derived from the Google Web Trillion Word Corpus [Source](#). This Dataset is used to find the Top X vanity numbers.

Dictionary Generation Limitation

1. If there are no words found in the frequency dataset, then the frequency is set to zero, which means if a potentially frequent word is not present in the `unigram_freq.csv` then it will be pushed to the last in the ordered vanity words array for a number sequence. This will affect in choosing the best vanity word.

Lookup Limitations

1. Only one-word match per phone number.
2. Limited on the words in the dictionary.
3. Limited on the words and the accuracy in the frequently used words dataset.
4. If words that are not present in the frequency dataset will get pushed to last.

Challenges faced and shortcuts used

1. Getting the S3 bucket arn in the serverless stack was giving an error. Hence a shortcut was used to directly pass the bucket name and arn in the `secrets.yml` file.
2. Attaching Bucket Policy for the S3 Bucket in deploy-time was also consuming time.
3. Shortcut: `GenerateVanityObj.js` attaches the required S3 Bucket Policies to make the public folder accessible to the world. This way of attaching Bucket Policies will be avoided in production as this will either be done internally within CloudFormation or a separate custom resource lambda will handle this job. Perhaps, the whole `GenerateVanityObj.js` can be repurposed to custom resource lambda trigger.
4. Populating the Data Bucket needs to be done manually.
5. AWS wouldn't let me claim phone numbers for my Amazon Connect instances. Had to reach out the customer support. Shortcut: Created a fresh AWS Account.
6. Code Reuse not enforced fully, `readObjBucket()` and `writeObjBucket()` functions are duplicated in both the lambdas, this would cause issues in maintaining these functions. OOP can be used to solve this with more time.
7. Improve structure of the repo. The bucket folder can not be included in this directory as serverless framework does not pay attention to `.gitignore` hence for smaller and quicker build, the heavy directory had to be kept outside.
8. Complete the Custom Resource part of the lambda. Partial implementation at this point. Will be completed in the future.

Future work

1. Process the word frequency to include every word in the dictionary
2. Clean the dictionary dataset. To exclude censored/unwanted words if any.
3. Production environment will have all the saved `.json` data stored in the database.
4. Implement custom resource lambda trigger, which would populate the s3 Bucket with necessary data, set s3 bucket permissions, and generate `vanity.json`
5. Implement test automation scripts. (ran out of time)
6. `BathchWrite` to dynamodb can be implemented, currently, when an array of numbers are passed to lambda, dynamodb call is made for every number. Similarly S3 calls can also be reduced to maintain `lastcaller.json`
7. Error Handling can be improved with intensive logs and alerts. Additionally, `StepFunctions` can also be used.

Misc

1. Serverless Framework was used for development in this project. This uses AWS CloudFormation, and builds templates very similar to AWS SAM. As I have more experience with this, it was used to increase development speed.

Known loopholes

1. Its not safe to display the phone number of last 5 callers out to the world for privacy reasons.
2. Lambdas have s3:* access, which can be used to exploit the system. This was a short cut used, to speed up development process.
3. Potential SQL injection-like attacks. Serialize.

Steps to deploy in a new environment

1. install serverless framework. `npm install -g serverless` [for more info](#)
2. setup aws cli profile and update it in the `serverless.yml` file.
3. run `npm install` from the root of this directory
4. run `serverless deploy --staging dev` from the root of this directory
5. run `aws s3 ls --profile your-profile` once the deploy is complete, you should be able to see a bucket created by the name *parrot-beak-dev-assets-xxxxxxxxxxxx*
6. go to `secrets.yml` and update the `S3_DATA_BUCKET` attribute with the new bucket name.
7. redeploy stack by running `serverless deploy --staging dev`
8. copy files to the bucket `aws s3 sync ../bucket s3://bucket-name --profile your-profile`
9. invoke the *GenerateVanityObj* `aws lambda invoke --function-name parrot-beak-dev-GenerateVanityObj --profile your-profile ../invoke.txt`
10. Create an Amazon Connect instance and claim phone number.
11. Create an empty contact flow. You can find `Vanity-contact-flow.json` in the root of this directory. Use this file to import the contact flow using the import menu.
12. Update the Lambda ARN in the contact flow to your Lambda ARN

For Assessor

1. Use +44 1616053574 (UK number) to test the contact flow in my environment
2. Navigate to [this](#) link to view the web page of last 5 caller.
3. Development automation needs to be bit more contained. this would have been done as part of Custom resource implementation. Ran out of time. Use the steps documented above to deploy in other aws env