CASE STUDY

Overview

The Austin Community College, founded in 1973, stands out as a public community college in the Austin, Texas, metropolitan area. Its distinctive mission is to provide open-door access to affordable college-level education, catering to students who are ready to earn a degree, learn a marketable skill, or advance in their careers. With 100+ study programs, Austin Community College is all set to transform the educational experience in Austin and around the globe. The flexible and accelerated learning opportunities provided by the college act as a prime driving force—revolutionizing how students learn. Candidates are able to complete their education on time and join the workforce of choice.

Challenge

CloudLabs has been playing a pivotal role in providing Austin Community College with the rightful solutions since October 2020. To keep pace with fast-changing public cloud technologies, ACC sought to transition to and apply improved methods in its learning curriculum. The focus was on delivering practical courses that would help enhance student employability. Also, the institute had plans to customize and update its course content according to changing technology and workforce requirements. As one of the top-tier colleges in the USA, Austin Community College was looking for a reliable platform that would ensure fast and exceptional course execution backed by comprehensive support.

Lately, Austin Community College has had to face a new series of challenges. The institute was facing issues with the creation and maintenance of attendees' AWS cloud accounts, such as tracking individual costs and resource exhaustion. Also, it was a challenge organizing and controlling the AWS quota for major events. There were instances of problems with establishing and overseeing the billing involved.

Austin Community College wanted to be certain about the construction of completely automated labs for participants. In the list of requirements, the organization was also struggling with lab content development and access to customized restrictions based on the lab requirements. They wanted to get rid of manual initialization and destruction of the lab environment; instead, they wanted automation to thrive and ease out the learning process.

Solution

Spektra's CloudLabs team was fast and diligent in creating and delivering lab environments that abided by ACC's requirements. The task fulfilled was the requirement for labs that are customizable, fast, reliable, and easy to use, comprising multi-cloud capabilities. Further, the labs were protected by advanced security capabilities that come hands-on with the cloud platform. In addition, CloudLabs dedicated security policies were also added.

A dedicated support team ensured smooth operations during and after onboarding. The lab environments were based on unique roles and policies, which helped with additional customization. Strict policies included in the labs ensured that they were used for a particular case. Multi-feature availability empowered the faculty members with in-depth analytics and real-time monitoring of class participation rate. Students got their hands on various AWS-ML services and AWS labs - Amazon SageMaker, Amazon QuickSight, Amazon Textractc, Amazon Comprehend, DP-200, AI-100, DP-100, etc.

Furthermore, CloudLabs introduced the institute to its completely automated lab environments, eliminating manual efforts to set up labs before the scheduled date. ACC can simply let the students start using pre-built labs and continue learning at their own pace.

Also, the CloudLabs team assisted Austin Community College's faculty in the creation of lab content and in enabling custom restrictions based on lab requirements. Thus, reducing risks with lab downtime and cutting unexpected expenses. Dedicated professionals from Spektra took care of issues with the creation and maintenance of attendees' AWS cloud accounts. This involves monitoring subscription charges, individual lab costs, and resource exhaustion. Also, they eased out the challenge of organizing and controlling AWS quota for major events and billing involved.

Because the system is completely automated, labs in CloudLabs can self-manage the setup and end time of the attendees' AWS cloud accounts. When allocated a fixed time, the platform will automatically initialize and destroy the lab environment and related resources, thus saving human effort. In addition, the dedicated team from CloudLabs also provides 24*7 support for every little instance related to the lab environment.

Result

Since October 2020, CloudLabs has been helping Austin Community College keep up with the changing pace and adhere to the latest technology on the cloud. The availability of real-time, hands-on lab environments did turn out to be a game changer, helping the college deliver curriculum on demand at a blazing speed. Most importantly, the labs came customized and ready to be used, enabling management to make them available at pre-scheduled times. Dedicated and spontaneous guidance by a team of CloudLabs experts added more value to the scenario, helping students and working professionals upgrade and upscale at their convenience.

With its hands-on labs, CloudLabs continued to propagate success for Austin Community College. The feature-rich labs allow participants to use a variety of AWS services effectively. With automation and dedicated support at scale, the participants could smoothly continue with their day-to-day ventures and focus on upskilling as well.

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