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Serverless Computing Explained

We started the cloud computing age with the three service models defined in the 2011 NIST Cloud Reference Model: SaaS, PaaS and SaaS -- respectively software, platform, and infrastructure as a service. Then came all the other so-called XaaS, including Disaster Recovery as a Service (DRaaS) and Containers as a Service (CaaS). More recently, you may have heard about FaaS (Function as a Service) and its synonym, serverless computing. You would be familiar with all those terms if you read the OMG's Practical Guide to Cloud Deployment Technologies.

But let's say you're not planning to read this 19-page guide, and you just want the elevator pitch on serverless computing, as well as some choices for where to go to set it up. Then this brief article by Scott Carey for Computerworld will do the trick. It tells the reader what FaaS/serverless is, and it names five commercial offerings: AWS Lambda from Amazon Web Services, OpenWhisk from IBM, Azure Functions from Microsoft, Cloud Run from Google, and Oracle Functions from... you guessed it. The article concludes with the names of some customers and with a discussion of pricing compared to other cloud service models.

Five Upcoming Events

Next week, Sep. 23-27, the Object Management Group meets in Nashville. See details in KIT No. 247. Here are some significant sessions of interest to non-members:

- An interoperability demonstration between multiple vendors of implementations of the DDS standard for real-time data distribution.
- A launch meeting of a "BPM+ Health Community focused on standardizing the modeling of clinical processes.
- A status and planning meeting of the Cloud Working Group.
- A workshop on Augmented Reality (AR) needs and standards in industry.

On October 14 in London, those of you involved in information governance and data management should not miss the Taxonomy Bootcamp. There will be four half-day modules -- two in parallel in the morning, and two in parallel in the afternoon. Heather Hedden, well-known for her great book "The Accidental Taxonomist," will be one of the speakers.

The "Well Site Automation 2019 and the Internet of Things" conference (Houston, Oct. 21-22), presented by IQ Hub, will address the impact of digital transformation, automation and AI in Oil & Gas exploration and production. The conference consists of 18 talks in a single track. Just as energy industry people can benefit from attending events about the application of IoT in other industries, non-O&G people would be interested in understanding how IoT, AI and related technologies apply to this critical industry. On Tuesday, Claude Baudoin will talk about the applicability of the work of the Industrial Internet Consortium.

The OMG will hold a Silicon Valley Meet & Greet event, for members and non-members alike, graciously hosted by Real Time Innovations at their Sunnyvale, Calif., office, on October 24. This is free but *space is limited -- register soon at the above link*.

Finally, the IoT Solutions World Congress returns to Barcelona, as it does each year, on October 29-31. See how IoT, blockchain, AI and cognitive solutions impact industries as diverse as connected transport, manufacturing, healthcare, energy, and smart buildings. There will be 300 companies from 120 countries, and 32,000 square meters of exhibition space (that's about 345,000 sq. ft. for metric-impaired readers).

→ Enterprise Data Reference Model for Energy

Pamela J. Martinez, Chief Enterprise Architect at the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration (EIA), just announced that she has "developed the first enterprise data reference model for DOE aligned to DMBOK." DMBOK is the Data Management Book of Knowledge from DAMA International. While a link to the DOE model is not yet available, you can get a sense of her work from her LinkedIn post and the reactions from other enterprise architects.

→ Failure to Secure Voting Systems

This Washington Post article from September 10 (note that you may hit a paywall if you try to access it) explains how many state election officials in the U.S. have failed to implement proper cybersecurity measures, leaving their systems wide open to organized attacks. Given the doubts already raised in 2016 and the high stakes of the November 2020 election, this is alarming news. Falsified results would of course be a disaster, and so would be the collapse of the public's confidence that election results can be trusted to actually represent the will of the majority. Much of this is avoidable: there are well-documented lists of software vulnerabilities (see the WhiteHat Top 40 as an example), ways to test for them, and best practices to remedy them.

(Source: ACM TechNews, September 13 edition)

→ Seen Recently...

"The right data delivered at the wrong time is the wrong data."

-- David Nelson of Boeing, speaking at the Industrial Internet Consortium's
Global Event Series in Anaheim, Calif., on 12 September 2019