## re:Invent

NOV. 28 - DEC. 2, 2022 | LAS VEGAS, NV

**DOP302** 

# How to reuse patterns when developing infrastructure as code

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Specialist SA – DevOps
AWS

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Principal Architect
United Airlines

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Senior Solutions Architect
AWS



### What am I going to talk about?

- How infrastructure is evolving
- Challenges organizations face
- CDK @ United
- IaC Community Engagement Program



# "One of my most productive days was throwing away 1000 lines of code."

#### **Ken Thompson**

American Computer Science Pioneer, Early UNIX Developer



### How infrastructure is evolving



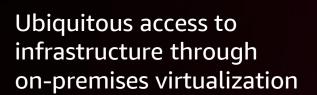


Build environments with available infrastructure

Lengthy delivery times

Limited innovation





Deliver infrastructure as code

Eliminate one roadblock to deploying application environments automatically



Ubiquitous access to infrastructure and AWS Cloud services

Unique requirements for different applications

Ability to automate the process of deploying application environments



# The skills gap makes this more difficult

Huge demand for application environments

Low supply of people with the skills to support them

Bottlenecks that slow down delivery and reduce quality (velocity)



APPLICATION ENVIRONMENTS







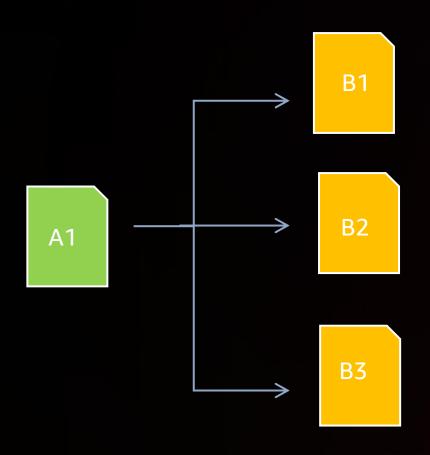
### Challenges

- Builders are spending too much time trying to figure out resource intricacies and best practices
- Applications often share common architectural elements
  - For example, one or more Lambda functions that can read/write to an Amazon DynamoDB table
- Modeling infrastructure becomes repetitive, "re-implementing the wheel"
  - Defining and configuring each service
  - Integrating with other services
  - Adhering to best practices
- Takes valuable development time from building unique features

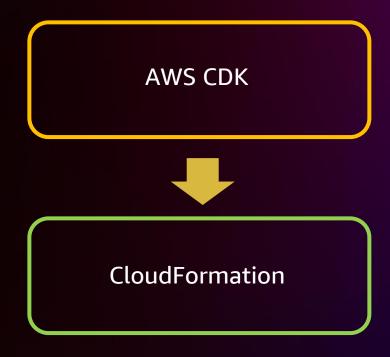


### **AWS** to the rescue

AWS CloudFormation modules



AWS Cloud Development Kit (AWS CDK)





### AWS CDK at United Airlines

- Business considerations
- Agility
- People processes
- Cloud adoption



### Agenda

About me

Where we were

Our roadmap to the solution

Key steps we took and decisions we made

How we solved the problem

Where we are today



### **About me**

ETHAN RUCINSKI | PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT AT UNITED AIRLINES

- Chicago, IL
- Previously
  - Manager network operations
  - Operations data analyst
- Fun facts
  - Have flown ~1M miles with United
  - Enjoy rock climbing
- 4 AWS Certifications



### United has a large and growing cloud footprint

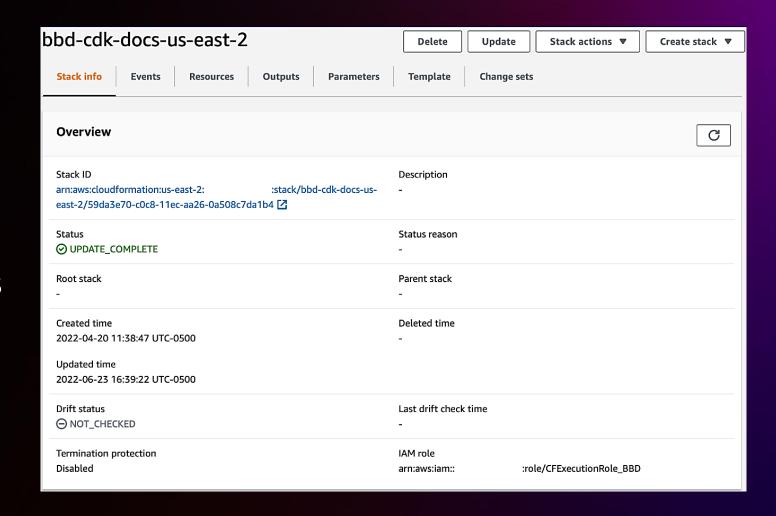
- >200 apps in the cloud
- >120 active AWS accounts
- ~100 different services

United's mass cloud migration is in full swing



### App teams own their cloud destiny at United

- Developers implement and deploy their own cloud infrastructure
- Strict policies protect higher environments
- Infrastructure as code enforces consistency across deployments



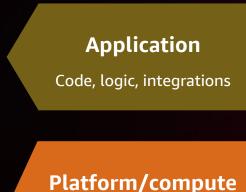


### Where does PlatformOps fit in?

CI/CD tooling

Cloud reference architectures

Support app teams new to the cloud



Compute, services, tooling

#### **Ecosystem**

Accounts, networks, security



# First-mover teams become experts in AWS CloudFormation

```
Service:
    Type: AWS::ECS::Service
    Properties:
        Cluster:
            Fn::ImportValue: !Sub ${AppID}-ecs-cluster
        DesiredCount: !Sub ${DesiredCount}
        LoadBalancers:
            - ContainerName: !Sub ${AppID}-${ServiceName}
              ContainerPort: 3000
              TargetGroupArn: !Ref "TargetGroup"
        NetworkConfiguration:
            AwsvpcConfiguration:
                AssignPublicIp: DISABLED
                SecurityGroups:
                    - Fn::ImportValue: !Sub ${AppID}-ecs-service-security-group
                Subnets:
                    - !Ref "SubnetA"
                    - !Ref "SubnetB"
                    - !Ref "SubnetC"
        LaunchType: FARGATE
        ServiceName: !Sub ${AppID}-${ServiceName}
        TaskDefinition: !Ref TaskDefintion
        PropagateTags: SERVICE
```

### First-mover teams connect everything

```
TaskDefintion:
    Type: AWS::ECS::TaskDefinition
    Properties:
                       Service:
        Cpu: !Sub ${Ti
                           Type: AWS::ECS::Service
        RequiresCompa
                           Properties:
             FARGATE
                               Cluster:
                                  Fn::ImportValue: !Sub #[AnnID] acc aluston
        Family: !Sub
                               DesiredCount: !Sub ${De TargetGroup:
        NetworkMode:
                                                        Type: AWS::ElasticLoadRalancingV2::TargetGroup
                               LoadBalancers:
        Memory: !Sub
                                                                          ApiHttpsListenerRule:
                                  – ContainerName: !S
                                                        Properties:
        ExecutionRole
                                    ContainerPort: 30
                                                                              Type: AWS::ElasticLoadBalancingV2::ListenerRule
                                                             Name: !Sub $
                                    TargetGroupArn: !
             Fn::Impor
                                                                               Properties:
                                                             Port: 3000
                              NetworkConfiguration:
        TaskRoleArn:
                                                                                   Actions:
                                  AwsvpcConfiguration
                                                             Protocol: H7
             Fn::Impor
                                                                                       - Type: forward
                                      AssignPublicIp:
                                                             TargetType:
        ContainerDefi
                                     SecurityGroups:
                                                                                         TargetGroupArn: !Ref TargetGroup
                                                             VpcId: !Ref
                                         - Fn::Impor
                                                                                   Conditions:
                                                             HealthCheckF
                                      Subnets:
                                                                                       - Field: path-pattern
                                         - !Ref "Sub
                                                             HealthCheckF
                                         - !Ref "Sub
                                                                                         Values:
                                                             Tags:
                                         - !Ref "Sub
                                                                                              - !Sub "/${RoutingRulePath}*"
                                                                 - Key: /
                                                                                   ListenerArn:
                                                                   Value:
                                                                                       Fn::ImportValue: !Sub ${AppID}-elb-https-listener
                                                                                   Priority: !Ref LoadBalancerPriority
```

### First-mover teams repeat each other

```
Service:
    Type: AWS::ECS::Service
    Properties:
                                                         Service:
        Cluster:
                                                             Type: AWS::ECS::Service
            Fn::ImportValue: !Sub ${AppID}-ecs-cluster
                                                             Properties:
        DesiredCount: !Sub ${DesiredCount}
                                                                                                                  Service:
                                                                 Cluster:
        LoadBalancers:
                                                                                                                      Type: AWS::ECS::Service
                                                                     Fn::ImportValue: !Sub ${AppID}-ecs-cluster
            - ContainerName: !Sub ${AppID}-${ServiceName
                                                                                                                      Properties:
                                                                 DesiredCount: !Sub ${DesiredCount}
              ContainerPort: 3000
                                                                                                                          Cluster:
                                                                 LoadBalancers:
              TargetGroupArn: !Ref "TargetGroup"
                                                                                                                              Fn::ImportValue: !Sub ${AppID}-ecs-cluster
                                                                     - ContainerName: !Sub ${AppID}-${ServiceNam
        NetworkConfiguration:
                                                                                                                         DesiredCount: !Sub ${DesiredCount}
                                                                       ContainerPort: 80
            AwsvpcConfiguration:
                                                                                                                         LoadBalancers:
                                                                       TargetGroupArn: !Ref "TargetGroup"
                AssignPublicIp: DISABLED
                                                                                                                              - ContainerName: !Sub ${AppID}-${ServiceName}
                                                                 NetworkConfiguration:
                SecurityGroups:
                                                                                                                               ContainerPort: 8080
                                                                     AwsvpcConfiguration:
                    - Fn::ImportValue: !Sub ${AppID}-ec:
                                                                                                                               TargetGroupArn: !Ref "TargetGroup"
                                                                         AssignPublicIp: DISABLED
                Subnets:
                                                                                                                         NetworkConfiguration:
                                                                         SecurityGroups:
                    - !Ref "SubnetA"
                                                                                                                             AwsvpcConfiguration:
                                                                             - Fn::ImportValue: !Sub ${AppID}-ec
                    - !Ref "SubnetB"
                                                                                                                                 AssignPublicIp: DISABLED
                                                                         Subnets:
                    - !Ref "SubnetC"
                                                                                                                                 SecurityGroups:
                                                                             - !Ref "SubnetA"
                                                                                                                                     - Fn::ImportValue: !Sub ${AppID}-ecs-service-security-group
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                                                                             - !Ref "SubnetB"
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                                                                                                                                 Subnets:
                                                                             - !Ref "SubnetC"
                                                                                                                                     - !Ref "SubnetA"
        TaskDefinition: !Ref TaskDefintion
                                                                 LaunchType: FARGATE
                                                                                                                                     - !Ref "SubnetB"
        PropagateTags: SERVICE
                                                                 ServiceName: !Sub ${AppID}-${ServiceName}
                                                                                                                                     - !Ref "SubnetC"
        Tags:
                                                                 TaskDefinition: !Ref TaskDefintion
                                                                                                                         LaunchType: FARGATE
            - Key: ApplicationID
                                                                 PropagateTags: SERVICE
                                                                                                                         ServiceName: !Sub ${AppID}-${ServiceName}
              Value: !Ref AppID
                                                                                                                         TaskDefinition: !Ref TaskDefintion
                                                                     - Key: ApplicationID
                                                                                                                         PropagateTags: SERVICE
                                                                       Value: !Ref AppID
                                                                                                                          Tags:
                                                                                                                             - Key: ApplicationID
                                                                                                                               Value: !Ref AppID
```

### Parameterized templates reduce repetition

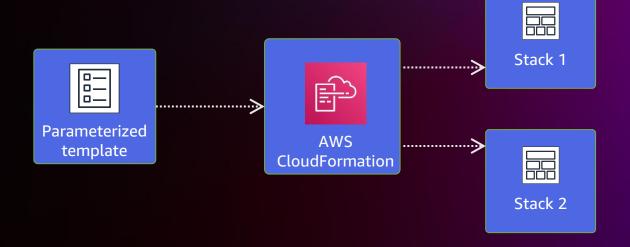
- DevOps teams produce standard templates
- Applications leverage latest templates for current best practices
- Expert teams build their own templates for new features

```
AWSTemplateFormatVersion: "2010-09-09"
Description: Template for standing up generic Lambda
    LambdaName:
        Type: String
        Description: Name for the Lambda and associated resources
    AppCI:
        Type: String
        Description: Lowercase AppCI Example abc
    LambdaFunctionHandler:
        Description: The handler for your Lambda function
        Default: main.lambda_handler
    LambdaPackageS3Bucket:
        Description: Bucket where the lambda package is placed Example this-is-my-s3-bucket-name
        Type: String
    LambdaPackage:
        Description: The name of your Lambda deployment package Example lambda.zip
        Type: String
        Default: lambda.zip
    LambdaRuntimeEnvironment:
        Description: The runtime environment for your Lambda function
        Default: python3.6
    ExecutionRoleArn:
        Description: ARN of the role for the lambda to use
        Type: String
        Description: ID of a security group to attach to this lambda
        Type: AWS::EC2::SecurityGroup::Id
        Description: ID of a subnet in which to run the lambda
        Type: AWS::EC2::Subnet::Id
    SubnetB:
        Description: ID of a subnet in which to run the lambda
        Type: AWS::EC2::Subnet::Id
        Type: AWS::Lambda::Function
           FunctionName: !Ref LambdaName
```

### **Growing pains**

#### CloudFormation

Parameters and intrinsic functions



Things that get stale	Why they got stale
Best practices	Best practices change constantly
Policies	Policies adapt to new features and new risks
The code I got from Bob	Bob's code had bugs, and he wrote it last year



### Supporting United's new cloud workforce

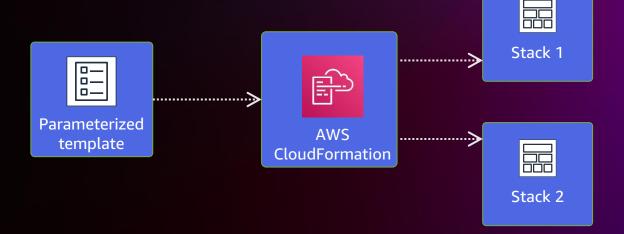
- Meeting teams where they're at
- Centrally managed living common patterns
- Policies encapsulated and updated behind the scenes
- Extensive customization for advanced teams



### **Advanced IaC tooling**

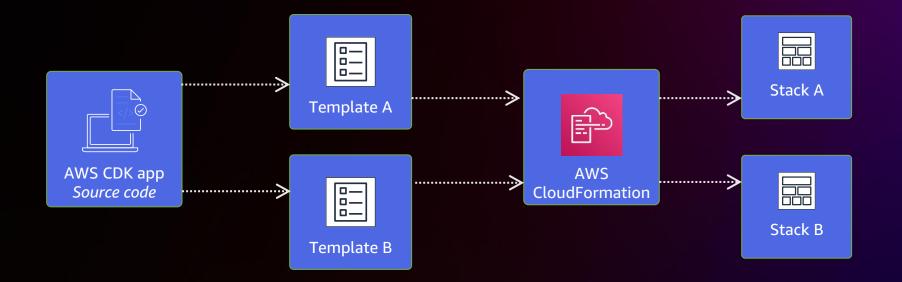
#### **CloudFormation**

Parameters and intrinsic functions



#### **AWS CDK**

Typed OO language: loops, conditions, inheritance, etc.





A MULTI-LANGUAGE SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK FOR MODELING CLOUD INFRASTRUCTURE AS REUSABLE COMPONENTS

```
class UrlShortener extends Stack {
  constructor(scope: App, id: string, props?: UrlShortenerProps) {
    super(scope, id, props);
    const vpc = new ec2.Vpc(this, 'vpc', { maxAzs: 2 });
    const cluster = new ecs.Cluster(this, 'cluster', { vpc: vpc });
    const service = new patterns.NetworkLoadBalancedFargateService(this, 'sample-app', {
      cluster,
      taskImageOptions: {
        image: ecs.ContainerImage.fromAsset('ping'),
     },
     dom
         ⊘ domainName
                                                  (property) patterns.NetworkLoadBala ×
         ⊘ domainZone
                                                  ncedServiceBaseProps.domainName?: s
    // Setup AutoScaling policy
                                                  tring | undefined
    const scaling = service.service.autoScaleTasl
    scaling.scaleOnCpuUtilization('CpuScaling',
                                                  The domain name for the service, e.g.
      targetUtilizationPercent: 50,
                                                  "api.example.com."
     scaleInCooldown: Duration.seconds(60),
                                                  @default
     scaleOutCooldown: Duration.seconds(60)
   });
                                                    No domain name.
```



#### **Familiar** Your language Just code



**Tool support** Autocomplete Inline documentation















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         ⊘ domainName
                                                  (property) patterns.NetworkLoadBala ×
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      cluster,
      taskImageOptions: {
        image: ecs.ContainerImage.fromAsset('ping'),
     },
     dom
         ⊘ domainName
                                                  (property) patterns.NetworkLoadBala ×
         ⊘ domainZone
                                                  ncedServiceBaseProps.domainName?: s
    // Setup AutoScaling policy
                                                  tring | undefined
    const scaling = service.service.autoScaleTasl
    scaling.scaleOnCpuUtilization('CpuScaling',
                                                  The domain name for the service, e.g.
      targetUtilizationPercent: 50,
                                                  "api.example.com."
     scaleInCooldown: Duration.seconds(60),
                                                  @default
     scaleOutCooldown: Duration.seconds(60)
   });
                                                    No domain name.
```



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```
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      cluster,
      taskImageOptions: {
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     dom
         ⊘ domainName
                                                  (property) patterns.NetworkLoadBala ×
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                                                  ncedServiceBaseProps.domainName?: s
    // Setup AutoScaling policy
                                                  tring | undefined
    const scaling = service.service.autoScaleTasl
    scaling.scaleOnCpuUtilization('CpuScaling',
                                                  The domain name for the service, e.g.
      targetUtilizationPercent: 50,
                                                  "api.example.com."
     scaleInCooldown: Duration.seconds(60),
                                                  @default
     scaleOutCooldown: Duration.seconds(60)
   });
                                                    No domain name.
```



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### Construct levels

L3+

Purpose-built constructs

Opinionated abstractions

L2

**AWS** constructs

High-level service constructs

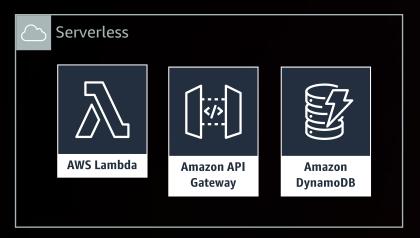
L1

CloudFormation resources

Automatically generated

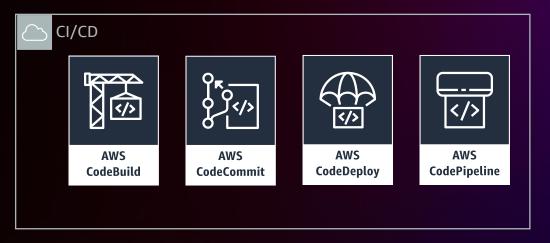


### **AWS Construct Library**









### **L1**

```
new CfnBucket(this, 'MyBucket', {bucketName: 'my-bucket'})
```





- Generated mappings from CloudFormation specification
- abc.CfnXyz → AWS::ABC::XYZ CloudFormation resource
- ec2.CfnInstance → AWS::EC2::Instance
- kms.CfnKey → AWS::KMS::Key

### **L2**



### cdk synth



- Ready-to-use VPC setup
- 65,536 IPs split equally between 4 subnets
- If you provide a Region → adjust to 3 AZs
- Everything is optional; change any parameter
- Sane default values

### L3

```
new ecs_patterns.ApplicationLoadBalancedFargateService(this, "FargateService", {
    cluster,
    taskImageOptions: {
        image: ecs.ContainerImage.fromRegistry("amazon/amazon-ecs-sample");
    }
});
```

829-line CloudFormation template

#### **Amazon VPC**



- Subnets
- EIP
- NAT gateways
- Internet gateway
- Route
- Route table

#### **Elastic Load Balancing**



- Security group
- Security group egress
- Security group ingress
- Task definition
- Listener
- Target group

#### AWS Fargate



- IAM roles
- IAM policies
- Log group
- Configuration

Amazon ECS task definition



- Image
- CPU
- Memory
- Port



### Connecting stuff with code

table.grantReadData(role);

- Least-privilege policy
- No advanced knowledge of IAM
- No advanced use of CloudFormation

```
MyTableReaderRoleDefaultPolicyB4C9E27D:
  Type: AWS::IAM::Policy
  Properties:
    PolicyDocument:
      Statement:
        - Action:
            dynamodb:BatchGetItem
            - dynamodb:ConditionCheckItem
            dynamodb:DescribeTable
            - dynamodb:GetItem
            - dynamodb:GetRecords
            - dynamodb:GetShardIterator
            - dynamodb:Query
            - dynamodb:Scan
          Effect: Allow
          Resource:
            - Fn::GetAtt:
                - MyTableTableAE194613
                - Arn
            - Ref: AWS::NoValue
      Version: "2012-10-17"
    PolicyName: MyTableReaderRoleDefaultPolicyB4C9E27D
    Roles:
      - Ref: MyTableReaderRole7F6B2E9A
```

### **CDK Quick Wins at United**

- Tagging
- Permissions boundaries
- Complex Amazon ECS reference architecture



### Aspects remove traditional policy speed bumps

- New cloud users don't have PhDs in IAM
- Tagging, naming, etc. don't generally affect applications
- Policies need to appear in infrastructure as code

```
const boundary = iam.ManagedPolicy.fromManagedPolicyArn(
    this,
    'permissions-boundary',
    `arn:aws:iam::${
        this.account
    }:policy/AppPolicy_${props.applicationCI.toUpperCase()}`
);
iam.PermissionsBoundary.of(this).apply(boundary);

cdk.Tags.of(this).add('ApplicationCI', this.applicationCI);
cdk.Tags.of(this).add('Environment', this.ualEnvironment);
cdk.Tags.of(this).add('Region', this.region);
```

### L2 at United

- Policy-compliant Amazon DynamoDB table
- Encryption enabled
- All tags enforced
- SSM Parameter for CloudFormation-generated name

```
MyTableTableAE194613:
                     Type: AWS::DynamoDB::Table
                      Properties:
                       KeySchema:
                         - AttributeName: pk
                           KeyType: HASH
                       AttributeDefinitions:
                         - AttributeName: pk
                           AttributeType: S
                       BillingMode: PAY_PER_REQUEST
                       SSESpecification:
                         SSEEnabled: true
                        Tags:
                         - Key: ApplicationCI
                           Value: abc
                         - Key: Environment
                           Value: dev
                         - Key: Region
                           Value: us-east-2
                         - Key: ual-cdk:version
                           Value: 4.4.0
MyTableTableMyTableSSMParameter86BAEA87:
  Type: AWS::SSM::Parameter
  Properties:
    Type: String
    Value:
      Ref: MyTableTableAE194613
    Name: /abc/dynamodb/dev/MyTable_TABLE_NAME
    Tags:
      ApplicationCI: abc
      Environment: dev
      Region: us-east-2
      ual-cdk:version: 4.4.0
```

### **Aspects at United**

```
const role = new Role(this, "MyTableReaderRole", {
    assumedBy: new AccountPrincipal(this.account),
});
```

- Policy-compliant IAM role
- All tags enforced
- Permissions boundary applied

```
MyTableReaderRole7F6B2E9A:
  Type: AWS::IAM::Role
  Properties:
    AssumeRolePolicyDocument:
      Statement:
        - Action: sts:AssumeRole
          Effect: Allow
          Principal:
            AWS:
              Fn::Join:
                _ ****
                - - "arn:"
                  - Ref: AWS::Partition
                  - :iam::12345678910:root
      Version: "2012-10-17"
    PermissionsBoundary: arn:aws:iam::12345678910:policy/AppPolicy_ABC
    Tags:
      - Key: ApplicationCI
        Value: abc
      - Key: Environment
        Value: dev
      - Key: Region
        Value: us-east-2
      - Key: ual-cdk:version
        Value: 4.4.0
```

### United-specific ECS reference architecture

- 34 lines of TypeScript = 451 lines of CloudFormation
- Private hosted zone, Amazon ECS cluster, VPC, and subnet lookups
- Built in instrumentation

```
import { UalStack, UalStackProps } from "ual-cdk";
import { ecs } from "ual-cdk";
import { aws_ecs as awsEcs } from "aws-cdk-lib";
import { ecs_patterns as ecsPatterns } from "ual-cdk";
import { Construct } from "constructs";
export class UalCdkDocsStack extends UalStack {
    constructor(scope: Construct, id: string, props: UalStackProps) {
        super(scope, id, props);
        const cluster = new ecs.UalCluster(this, "DocsCluster", {
            useIdInClusterNameSSMParameterName: true,
       });
        const albfs = new ecsPatterns.UalApplicationLoadBalancedFargateService
            "ualcdk",
                certificateArn:
                    this.region == "us-east-1"
                        ? "arn:aws:acm:us-east-1:12345678910:certificate/*****"
                        : "arn:aws:acm:us-east-2:12345678910:certificate/*****",
                cluster: cluster,
                containerPort: 80,
                taskImageOptions:
                    image: awsEcs.ContainerImage.fromAsset(".../"),
                    containerPort: 80,
                    enableLogging: true,
                circuitBreaker: { rollback: true },
```

#### Happy surprises

- No more hardcoded VPC IDs
- Amazon ECS workloads on AWS Fargate Spot in dev
- Change management
- Auto-generated documentation



#### United CDK apps look up their own networks

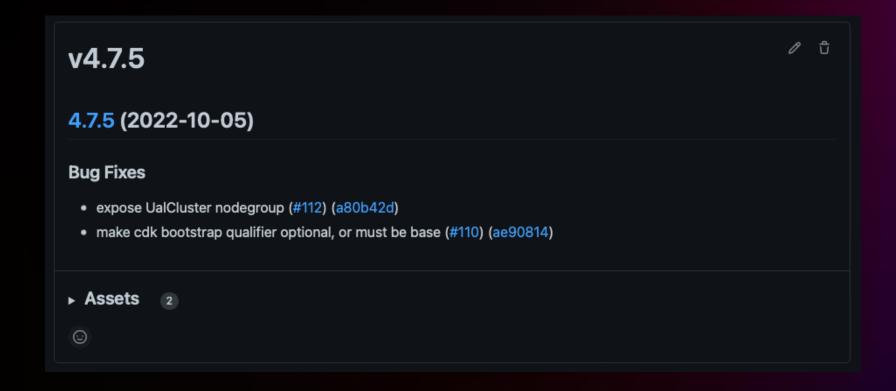
```
// Load vpc by id or default logic
if (props && props.vpcId) {
 this.vpc = ec2.Vpc.fromLookup(this, `${id}Vpc`, {
    vpcId: props.vpcId,
   subnetGroupNameTag: 'Name',
   isDefault: props.isDefault != null ? props.isDefault : false,
 });
} else {
 if (props?.isDefault) {
    console.warn(
      'isDefault defaults to false if vpcId is not provided to UalNetwork construct'
   );
 this.vpc = ec2.Vpc.fromLookup(this, `${id}Vpc`, {
    isDefault: false.
   vpcName: `VPC-${ualEnvironment.toUpperCase()}*-${stack.region}*`,
   subnetGroupNameTag: 'Name',
  }):
```

```
let ualNetwork: UalNetwork;
if (!props.vpcId) {
   ualNetwork = new UalNetwork(scope, `${id}UalNetwork`, {
      vpcId: props.vpcId,
   });
} else {
   ualNetwork = stack.getUalNetwork();
}
generated.vpcSubnets = {
   subnets: ualNetwork.subnets.appTier,
};
```

#### Fargate applications use Fargate Spot

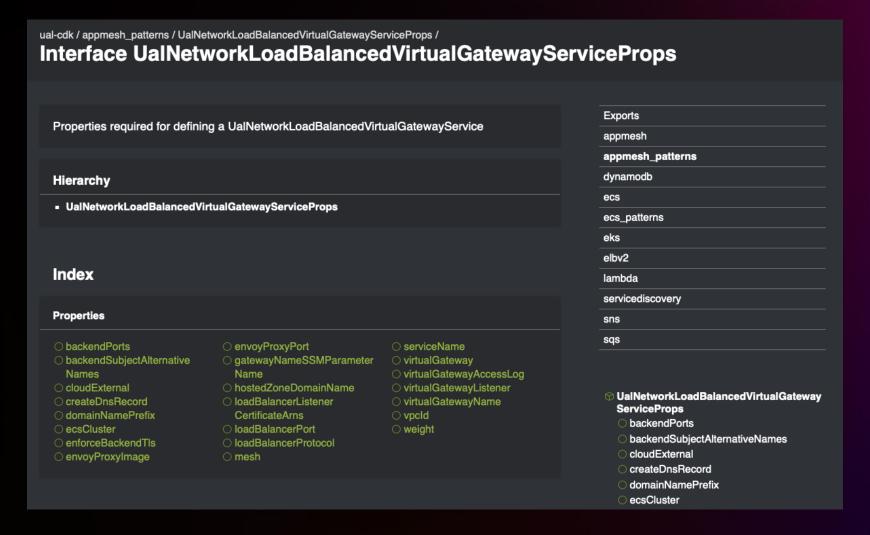


## CDK construct libraries have versions and releases





### United's CDK construct library auto-generates documentation





#### It gets more fun



#### This ...

```
export class MyTableStack extends UalStack {
    constructor(scope: Construct, id: string, props: UalStackProps) {
        super(scope, id, props);
        const role = new Role(this, "MyTableReaderRole", {
            assumedBy: new AccountPrincipal(this.account),
        });
        const table = new UalTable(this, "MyTable", {
            partitionKey: {
                name: "pk",
                type: AttributeType.STRING,
        });
        table.grantReadData(role);
```



#### ... is the same as this ...



#### ... is the same as this ...



#### ... is the same as this

```
public class MyTableStack : UalStack
    0 references
    internal MyTableStack(Construct scope, string id, IUalStackProps props) : base(scope, id, props)
        var role = new Role(this, "MyTableReaderRole", new RoleProps
            AssumedBy = new AccountPrincipal(this.Account)
        });
        var table = new UalTable(this, "MyTable", new UalTableProps
            PartitionKey = new Attribute
               Name = "pk",
                Type = AttributeType.STRING
        });
        table.GrantReadData(role);
```



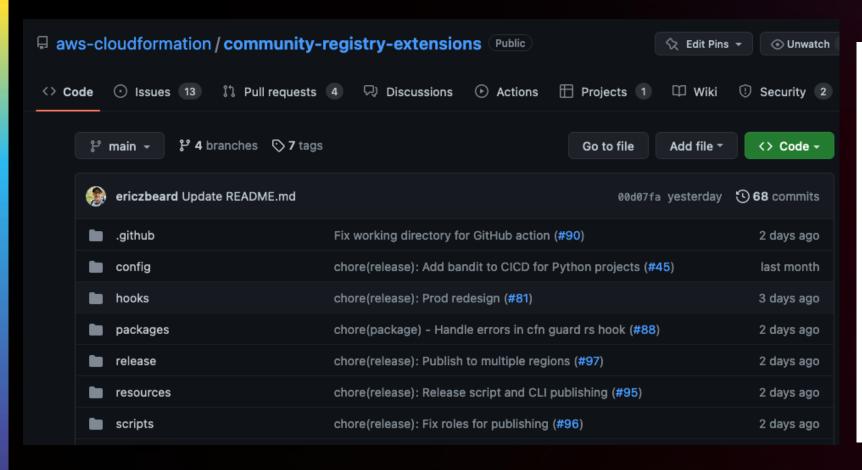
# "Good programmers know what to write. Great ones know what to rewrite (and reuse)."

**Eric S. Raymond** 

American software developer, open-source software advocate



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## Thank you!

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