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Cloud Architecture Patterns: Using Microsoft Azure



Synopsis

If your team is investigating ways to design applications for the cloud, this concise book introduces 11 architecture patterns that can help you take advantage of cloud-platform services. You'll learn how each of these platform-agnostic patterns work, when they might be useful in the cloud, and what impact they'll have on your application architecture. You'll also see an example of each pattern applied to an application built with Windows Azure. The patterns are organized into four major topics, such as scalability and handling failure, and primer chapters provide background on each topic. With the information in this book, you'll be able to make informed decisions for designing effective cloud-native applications that maximize the value of cloud services, while also paying attention to user experience and operational efficiency. Learn about architectural patterns for:

- Scalability. Discover the advantages of horizontal scaling. Patterns covered include Horizontally Scaling Compute, Queue-Centric Workflow, and Auto-Scaling.
- Big data. Learn how to handle large amounts of data across a distributed system. Eventual consistency is explained, along with the MapReduce and Database Sharding patterns.
- Handling failure. Understand how multitenant cloud services and commodity hardware influence your applications. Patterns covered include Busy Signal and Node Failure.
- Distributed users. Learn how to overcome delays due to network latency when building applications for a geographically distributed user base. Patterns covered include Colocation, Valet Key, CDN, and Multi-Site Deployment.

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Customer Reviews

I've read this book three times already. I did love it the first time and I enjoyed reading it once again now, almost two years later. Now, equipped with the experience coming from developing and deploying highly available/scalable applications in the cloud anyway, I see it under a different light. Moreover, having read other titles on the subject during these 20 months, allowed me to better value this one. Let's start with the title: the title says these 200 pages are about cloud infrastructure patterns. This isn't exactly true and could lead someone into believing that he gets something that he will not. If you do expect a problem:solution(s) book to common cloud issues, indeed, you will get disappointed. This title does not get you through cloud design challenges that you might face. It does, instead, give you guidelines, best practices that have proven successful in the development of cloud native applications. What the author does is to present the very basic concepts that better describe a cloud native application, such as scaling in and out, eventual consistency and asynchronous communication, just to mention a couple. Two years later, and after getting through it three times, I would in fact rename this title into Introduction to cloud native application design. The topics are accurately described, often supported with real life examples. Through the book, the author illustrates how the different concepts apply to an hypothetical (does it exist?) cloud web application called Page of Photos, hosted on Microsoft Azure. I don't remember seeing any schematic representation of the concepts explained, which is a big negative point. Some image appears here and there, but they do not really add any value to the reader.

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