Why IBM Bluemix

With the problems that we face, you know, the solution we were trying to get to with the client, it became very obvious that Bluemix was the best choice. It had the ability to do things quickly based on the four day constraint, it had the ability to do some very clever stuff with analytics, with data – that was an important part of the requirements – it let us tie things together quickly, glue it all together to work collaboratively and remotely. It really ticked all the boxes to be honest. And the one thing I noticed as I was using it and going through it was that really this app we’ve made is just scratching the surface. So I think we used four of sixty odd different elements you can play with, different toys you can play with, and having looked through some of the others I mean there is a lot of powerful stuff in there, not just IBM stuff. I mean we’ve gone out and pulled in services from other people, from other providers: things you know like text messaging, geo fencing, you know, loads of fun stuff that’s really interesting and I think I’m going to look forward to using in the future for other projects.

I really enjoy developing on Bluemix, you know I haven’t really used it before and there’re quite a few things that took me by surprise. I mean, one thing for example is there’s a bunch of technologies on there I never used before. So, you know, load of different languages, load of frameworks that I’ve never had a chance to. I mean there’s so much new stuff coming in and out, you know, on a daily, weekly basis that it’s hard to keep on top of all of it. But the nice thing about Bluemix is that because they’re so neatly packaged and well documented I didn’t really need to know a lot of details about, you know, how they were built. You know, in the days before using Bluemix I kind of had to... maybe go through the source code, go and get hubs, see what people are saying about it, see how it works... it would have taken a lot more time just to become familiar with the new technology. That’s something that had been cut out now by Bluemix. You know, I could still go and do if I wanted to but I don’t need to know that stuff just to get something working and up and running. That’s one thing I really like about it.
Another thing is... I like to think I’m maybe a bit of a designer, not a very good one, but I like appreciating, you know, sort of the visual style of things. You know, I do a lot of app design so UI, UX are very important part of that. One thing that really surprises me about Bluemix is generally, I mean it sounds silly, but how good it looked. I think it’s a very well designed; it’s a really attractive website. And I think it’s strange to get something that mixes the real technical stuff with something that actually looks good. I mean they don’t normally appear together. But yeah, the design of it, the icons, it just all works really well. But it does, you know, also has... because of the command line tool I told you about it’s got a lot of power under the hood as well. But to be honest I try to where I can.

So, couple of things about Bluemix that really let me to save some time. But, save a lot of time in terms of the boring stuff. If you wanted, you know, spinning up a server or something, getting a database sorted, getting storage sorted... all that stuff that’s kind of the admin, the overhead, that overhead to building something new, that’s all made easy and taken away really saving a significant amount of time. But you still get to do the fun bits so, you know, I like developing, I like doing this work, I wouldn’t want to really completely automate and remove the whole thing, but you know I still get to have that fun bit: the logic, the important parts, the stuff that really makes the app tick, still get to do those and with a set of tools that make them very easy. I can focus on the interesting bits. The actual, the logic, the fun part of the code I suppose, I can focus on that and don’t have to worry about all those other peripheral tasks that aren’t an important part of what you are building but just have to done. You don’t have to worry about those anymore.