

Report on APRICOT 2025 Fellowship Program

It was truly a magical time we all had attending the APRICOT Fellowship program. I participated in the Practical Virtualization with Hybrid Strategies masterclass. Over four days, I had the opportunity to get hands-on exercises with the best tools and platforms being in practice. The sessions were not just informative but also highly interactive. The instructors shared valuable insights and took the time to address our questions in detail. What made it even better was meeting fellow participants, we all shared challenges and experiences from our own organizations, which the instructors meticulously addressed.

Our session began with an introduction and some exercise to AWS cloud, where we were instructed to create an account and the first task involved configuring 2FA to enhance security. Security was emphasized as a critical aspect of cloud computing throughout the session. We utilized a bash script for an AWS Security Audit, which performed security checks using AWS CLI commands and identified potential security risks of the resources we created. This was an excellent example of a security audit, and I am eager to implement it within my organization in the near future. Terraform tasks were also part of the session. Since I had previous experience, we exchanged valuable conversation. I learned how to do reverse engineering of cloud resources to IaC. We discussed the importance of prioritizing cloud cost management, as neglecting it can lead to escalating bills and unexpected surcharges. My key takeaway from the instructors was that we should focus on hosting high-priority resources that require low latency and high availability in the cloud, while keeping more extensive resources, like storage solutions, on-premises to better control costs. Next, we moved on to VM hosting in Proxmox, which provided valuable insights into managing a Proxmox cluster. We performed a live migration of our VM without any downtime, demonstrating the efficiency and flexibility of the platform. Additionally, we received a demo of the LVM. The Ceph lab and failure demo were particularly valuable for me in understanding storage solutions. As this was my first experience with Ceph, I gained valuable insights into its functionality. I am confident that I will be using it into my daily work. The sessions on choosing the right cloud adoption strategy were insightful as a cloud engineer. It gave a clear picture of what we had learned and helped me understand how to make better decisions when designing cloud solutions.

Day 4 was the soft skills workshop. It focused mainly that while technical skills are essential, soft skills play a crucial role in professional growth, career advancement and effective leadership. The session helped me become more aware of how to communicate with colleagues, work in a team, and solve problems together. We also participated in impromptu team presentations, which improved our ability to think quickly and present ideas clearly. Lastly, we participated in a segment where teams had to defend real-world APNIC policies. I found this to be a valuable addition to the workshop, as it broadened our understanding of how these policies work in practice and provided deeper insights into real-world decision-making processes.

Overall, the APRICOT Fellowship program was well-organized, informative, and highly beneficial. It provided a great balance between theoretical knowledge and hands-on practice, making the learning experience both engaging and practical.

One aspect I particularly loved was the interaction between the instructors and fellows. We had the opportunity to share the challenges we faced in our respective jobs, and the instructors not only

provided valuable insights and solutions but also shared their own experiences. This exchange of knowledge and real-world perspectives made the sessions even more meaningful and relevant. It reinforced the importance of learning from each other and applying collective expertise to solve problems we face in our daily job.

And hats off to the APRICOT Team for hosting such a impeccable and insightful program. I am truly grateful for the opportunity to be part of this fellowship learning from industry experts, which has enriched my knowledge, expanded my professional network, and provided invaluable learning experiences.