The Computerworld Honors Program

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Final Copy of Case Study

Status:
Laureate

Year:
2013

Organization Name:
10gen

Organization URL:
www.10gen.com

Project Name:
Education Technology initiatives powered by MongoDB

Please select the category in which you are submitting your entry
Emerging Technology

Please provide an overview of the nominated project. Describe the problem it was intended to solve, the technology or approach used, how it was innovative and any technical or other challenges that had to be overcome for successful implementation and adoption. (In 300 words or less.)

MongoDB was the database of choice to power InBloom. Launching at SXSW in March 2013, InBloom aims to help transform education by providing entrepreneurs, schools and districts with a better, easier way to make sense of and draw value from big data. The goal is to make data integration and content search easy for schools and educators, so that a comprehensive history of each student can be quickly and securely accessed, giving them greater insights into how students can improve their learning outcomes and personalize their learning paths. The information helps maximize a teacher's time and a students learning potential. The organization, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation and others, is using MongoDB to create a standardized, open-source data architecture that makes educational data integration and content search easy, while helping reduce costs for schools. inBloom is storing and running analytics against student data in a MongoDB Enterprise database hosted in Amazon Web Services' Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2). While focused on inter-communication, data portability and scalability, inBloom views data privacy as a top

priority, and MongoDB's capabilities were a perfect fit for their criteria. In addition, 10gen launched free online education classes around MongoDB in October, and due to their overwhelming success, followed them up with a second semester in January. The courses are part of a collaboration with edX, one of the leading not-for-profit online learning collaboratives founded by Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. 10gen's instructors teach a series of courses designed to teach developers how to use the agile, scalable MongoDB platform as the foundation for building new applications. In less than 4 months, more than 47,000 users registered for the classes.

When was this project implemented or last updated? (Please specify month and year.) Has it incorporated new technologies and/or other innovations since its initial deployment? (In 300 words or less.)

InBloom will launch in March 2013. The 10gen education classes began their second semester in January 2013. Starting February 25, a new class, M101J: MongoDB for Java Developers, will address the demand from Java-specific developers.

Is implementation of the project complete? If no, please describe the project's phases and which phase the project is now in. (In 300 words or less.)

InBloom will launch in March 2013. 10gen's online education courses launched 4 months ago and are ongoing.

Please provide at least one example of how the technology project has benefited a specific individual or organization. Feel free to include personal quotes from individuals who have directly benefited from the work. (In 300 words or less.)

For InBloom, the ability to access and manipulate this data also ensures that it will be easier and less costly for entrepreneurs and technology vendors to build technology for schools in the future. Nine states (including 11 million students) are currently participating in the development and pilot of its service. Bottom line: With the help of MongoDB, InBloom has the ability to transform the way schools accelerate student achievement through personalized learning. In regards to online education, 10gen has offered free, accessible education to a global population. Eric Knorr of InfoWorld said of the program, "[It] stands out as a great resource for developers who want to make the most of MongoDB." 10gen was the very first NoSQL database company to offer free training to developers.

Would this project be considered an innovation, a best practice or other notable advancement that could be adopted by or tailored for other organizations and uses? If yes, please describe that here. (In 300 words or less.)

Yes, InBloom's technology and online education initiatives in general are considered significant innovations in the education space and has large scale implications for how America teaches its students of all ages. The positive impact it will have on America's students is boundless.

If there are any other details that the judges should know about this project, please note them here. (In 300 words or less.)

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, together with the Carnegie Corporation and others, have collectively put $100 million behind InBloom. Over 21 education technology companies have pledged to develop apps that work with InBloom's open API.