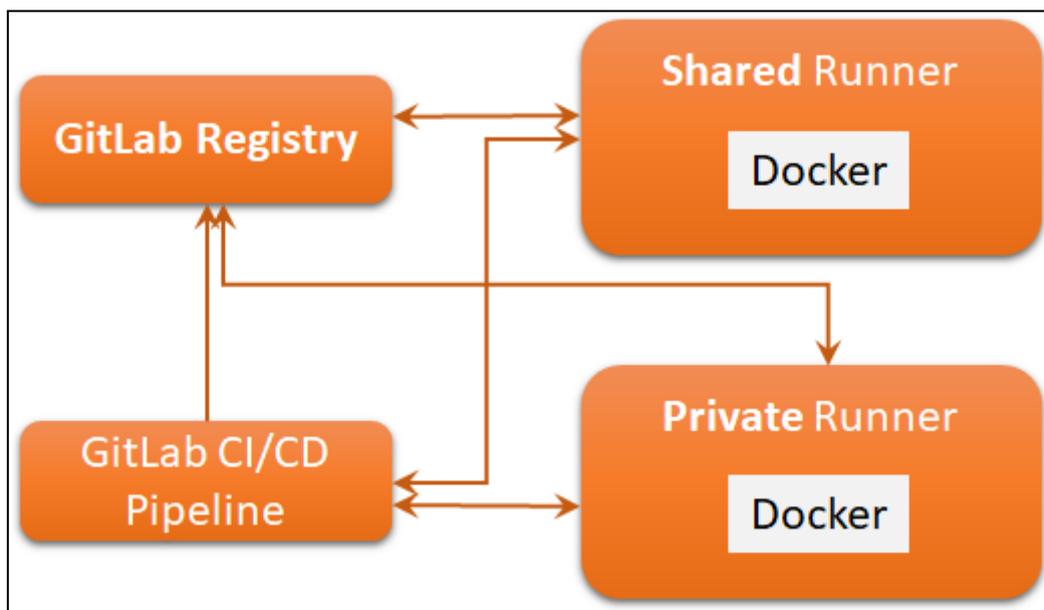


# Practice Session-07:- CI/CD with GitLab

Make sure that you have already gone through [Lab-06](#).

In this session you're going to learn the basic building blocks of the GitLab CI/CD pipeline and create the CI/CD pipelines to automatically deploy your custom code on the k8s.

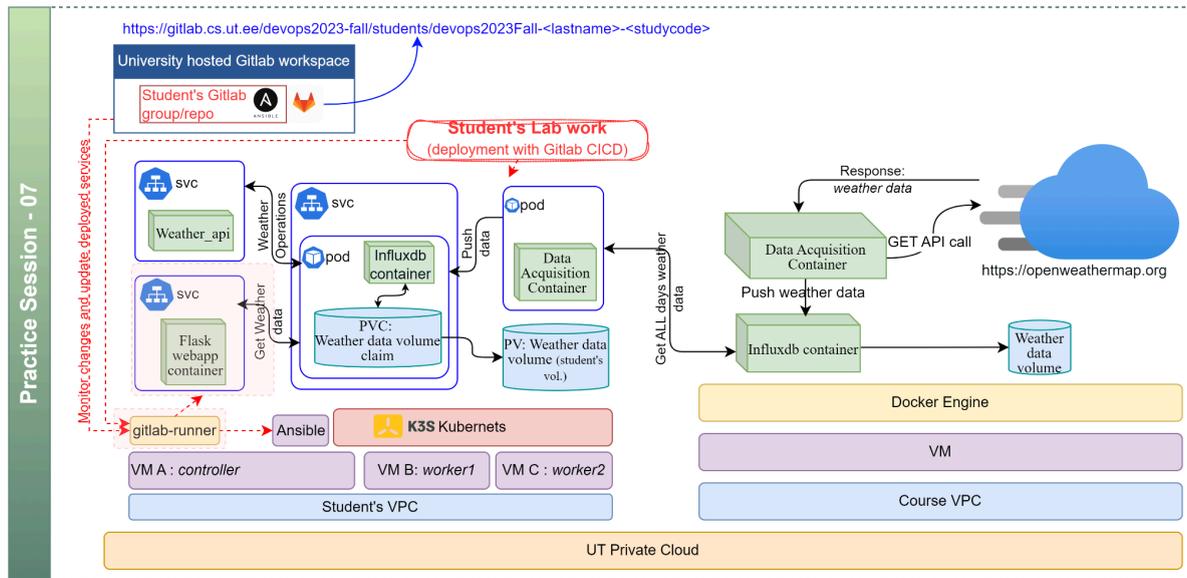


Understanding the communication among GitLab CI/CD, runners and the registry.

## Prerequisite

- Basic knowledge on Python, pandas library, csv file format
- Basic knowledge on YAML
- Familiar with Dockerfile
- Familiar with Git

# What are you going to do?



In the practice session, you will work with gitlab CI/CD. Using gitlab CI/CD, you're going to create pipelines to deploy the flask web application using ansible and gitlab runner, when code is modified. Further, you will work with image versioning and sync the images in the deployment.

## Exercise 1: Setting up of gitlab project and runners

In this exercise you will create a project and set up GitLab Runner and configure the runner, configure pipeline, etc. In this lab we are going to use the flask application code from [Lab 02](#) and k8s deployment files and ansible playbooks from [Lab 06](#).

### 1.1 Create a gitlab project and add necessary files

- Create a project in the gitlab with name `prac07-gitlab-cicd` under group `devops2023-fall/students/devops2023Fall-<lastname>-<studyCode>`
- Clone the project to `microk8scontroller` VM and go to the project `cd prac07-gitlab-cicd`
- Copy `flask-app` directory from `prac02-docker` (flask web application code used in Lab 02). It should include the following files (!! Please don't add `venv`- you can delete it if needed )
  - Dockerfile
  - templates/home.html
  - app.py
  - requirements.txt

- Copy the `flask_deployment.yaml`, `hosts.yaml` and `flask-deployment-ansible.yaml` from `prac06-ansible` (Lab 06 files) and files should be copied outside the `flask-app` directory.
- The final directory of `prac07-gitlab-cicd` should look like

```

├── README.md
├── flask-app
│   ├── Dockerfile
│   ├── app.py
│   ├── requirements.txt
│   └── templates
│       └── home.html
├── flask-deployment-ansible.yaml
├── flask-deployment.yaml
└── hosts.yaml

```

- Commit with the message “Added the required code and deployment files” and push the code.

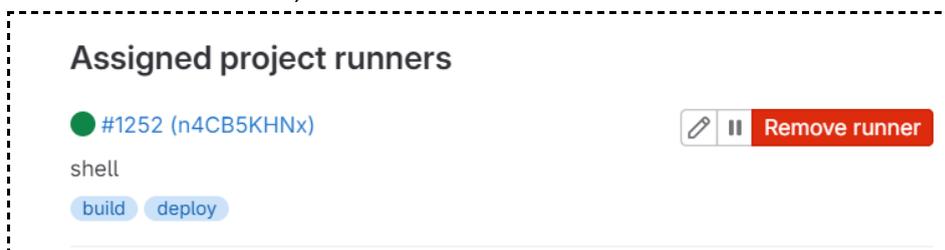
## 1.2 Installation and registration of Gitlab runners

In this task, we are going to set up a runner with `shell` as executor. The `shell` executor based runner used for building the docker images and to deploy the application on the kubernetes cluster using ansible.

- Make sure that you are logged in to your `microk8scontroller` VM.
- Install the gitlab-runner on k8s-controller virtual machine
  - Add the gitlab runner package - `curl -L "https://packages.gitlab.com/install/repositories/runner/gitlab-runner/script.deb.sh" | sudo bash`
  - Install the runner `sudo apt-get install gitlab-runner`
  - Add the gitlab-runner to docker, microk8s group
    - `sudo usermod -aG docker gitlab-runner`
    - `sudo usermod -aG microk8s gitlab-runner`
- Get the token for Gitlab runner registration for `shell` runner
  - Go to your `prac07-gitlab-cicd` Gitlab project
  - Go to `Setting --> CI/CD → Expand Runner`
  - Click on `New Project Runner`
    - Platform(Operating systems)--> `Linux`
    - Tags--> `build,deploy`
    - Details--> `shell`
    - Click on `Create runner`
    - Now copy the command mentioned in Step 1

For example: `sudo gitlab-runner register --url https://gitlab.cs.ut.ee --token glrt-...sp`

- Paste the command (make sure to use `sudo`) in `microk8scontroller` VM and it asks for input as described below :
  - Enter the GitLab instance URL: `https://gitlab.cs.ut.ee/`
  - Enter a name for the runner: `shell`
  - Enter an executor: `shell`
  - Press enter and gitlab runner is registered
- Now you can see the registered runner in your gitlab account in `Settings` → `CI/CD` → `Runners`
- You should see your registered runner: (If you see your runner without green symbol, then run the command `sudo gitlab-runner run shell` in the `microk8scontroller` VM)



### 1.3 Creating an access token and creating k8s secret for gitlab registry

- Next, we need to create an access token for authentication when reading and writing to the GitLab container registry. This access token is required in later exercise, and please note it down carefully (**Note!!** Please copy the access token and save it in a text file at some place)
  - Go to Settings → Repository → Depoy tokens and Expand it.
    - Name: k8s
    - Expiration date: Choose some date
    - Username (optional): Your Gitlab Username
    - Scopes (select at least one): read\_registry,write\_registry
    - Click on Create deploy token
    - Copy the access token and **save it in a text file** someplace.
- Create k8s secret for docker registry to access the gitlab registry in the `microk8scontroller` VM using the command (Change the values of red coloured marked text, `YOUR_ACCESS_TOKEN` is noted in the previous step). It would be nice to copy the text file and modify it, before running the command.  
`microk8s kubectl create secret docker-registry registry-credentials`

```
--docker-server=https://gitlab.cs.ut.ee:5050
--docker-username=YOUR_GITLAB_USERNAME
--docker-password=YOUR_ACCESS_TOKEN
--docker-email=YOUR_GITLAB_EMAIL_ID -n ex3
```

## 1.4 Check for the prerequisites in the `microk8scontroller` VM

- Make sure ansible is running `ansible --version`
- Make sure the **influxdb** database is running and have the data in `weather_data` bucket
- Make sure **influxdbdata** pod is running
- Check your configmap (**studhost**) and secret (**influx**) are present and correct.

## Exercise 2: Building your first pipeline

In this exercise, you're going to create the `.gitlab-ci.yml` CI file, a YAML file containing a specific set of jobs, stages, tags, etc., for the GitLab CI/CD pipeline. For information on the keywords used in this CI file can be found at <https://docs.gitlab.com/ee/ci/yaml/>

In this file, you define

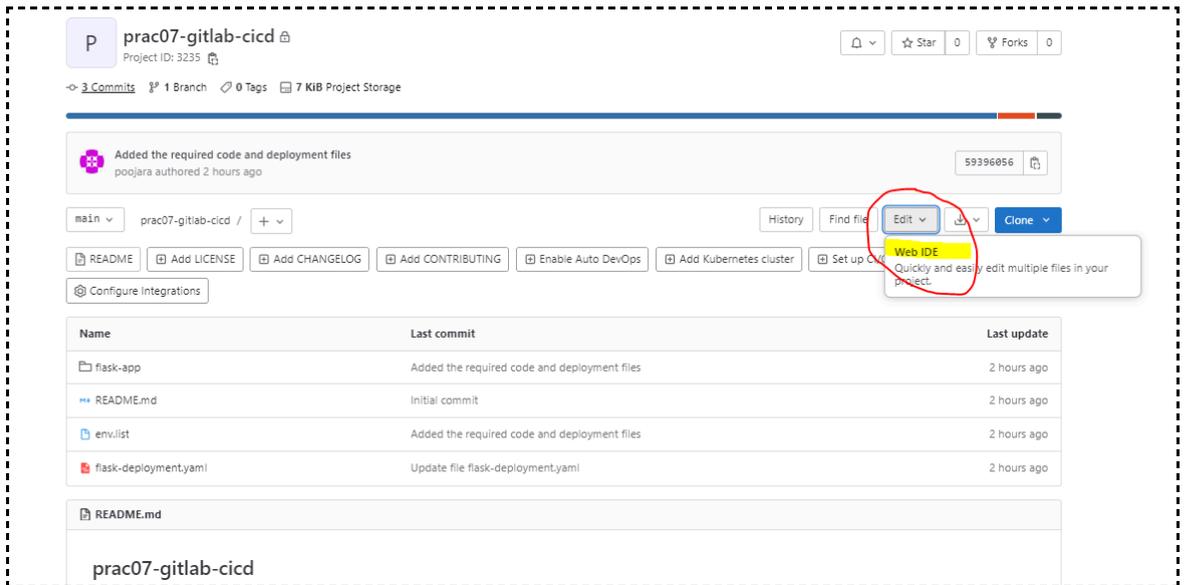
- The structure and order of jobs that the runner should execute.
- The decisions the runner should make when specific conditions are encountered.

**From now onwards, you will work most of the time in gitlab UI under the project `prac07-gitlab-cicd`**

At this point, you already have registered one GitLab runner.

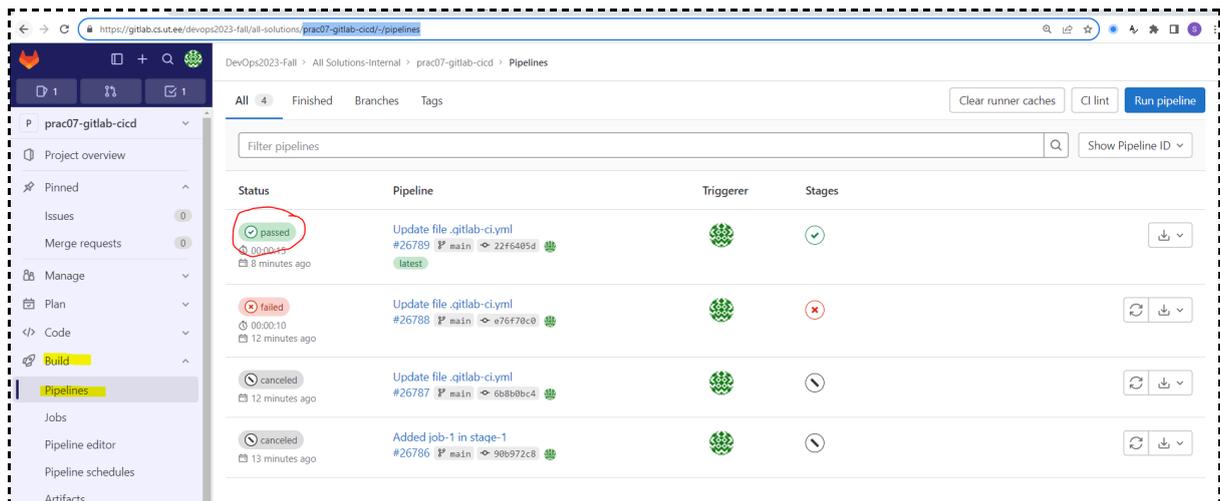
### *Points to Remember,*

1. In this exercise, you will very frequently commit the changes and push the code to your repo (you may use **Gitlab Web IDE** to modify the files). How to find Gitlab Web IDE is here:



2. At the end of this exercise, we may go through the commits history. So make sure that you have followed and implemented each step one after another.

- After each commit, you can see pipeline status in CI/CD → Pipelines, as below



- Click on the Pipeline ID to see the list of Jobs. for example, when I click on Pipeline ID #26789, I see the following list and status of jobs:

DevOps2023-Fall > All Solutions-Internal > prac07-gitlab-cicd > Pipelines > #26789

## Update file .gitlab-ci.yml

passed poojara triggered pipeline for commit 22f6405d finished 10 minutes ago

For main

latest 1 Jobs 15 seconds, queued for 4 seconds

Pipeline Needs Jobs 1 Tests 0

stage-1

job1

- Now, if you click on the job (e.g. `job1` in the above figure), you can see the logs of gitlab runner. For example, when I click on the above job1, I see the following output:

DevOps2021 > students > Iot-Usecase-Lab08-DevOps > Jobs > #9353

passed Job #9353 triggered 11 minutes ago by dehuri

```

1 Running with gitlab-runner 12.7.1 (003fe500)
2   on Docker-in-Docker r6p4cx67
3 Using Docker executor with image docker:stable ...
4 Pulling docker image docker:stable ...
5 Using docker image sha256:b0757c55a1fdbb59c378fd34dde3e12bd25f68094dd69546cf5ca00ddbaa7a33 for docker:stable ...
6 Running on runner-r6p4cx67-project-658-concurrent-0 via gitlab.cs.ut.e
7
8 Fetching changes with git depth set to 50...
9 Initialized empty Git repository in /builds/devops2021/students/iot-usecase/.git/
10 Created fresh repository.
11 From https://gitlab.cs.ut.ee/devops2021/students/iot-usecase
12 * [new ref]          2a019162437bed1c908131cc06a6861dabdcbaae -> refs/pipelines/5716
13 * [new branch]      main -> origin/main
14 Checking out 2a019162 as main...
15 Skipping Git submodules setup
16 $ echo "I am inside the job1 job."
17 I am inside the job1 job.
18 $ echo "This job is inside stage-1 stage."
19 This job is inside stage-1 stage.
20 Job succeeded
  
```

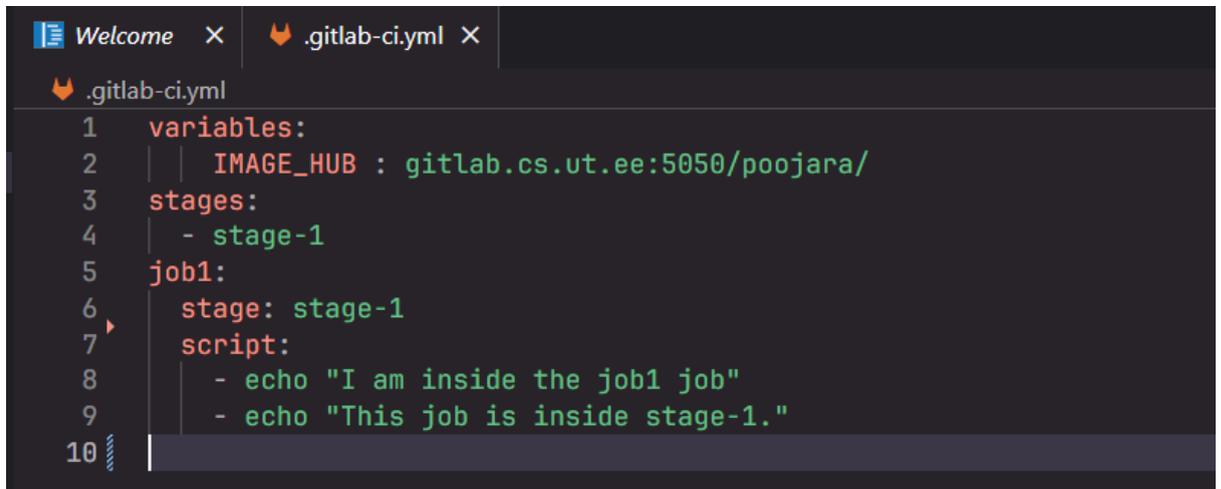
Note!! You will commit and push the code several times in further exercises.

**Remember** that, we may see the commit history while grading your submission. So, please specify the commit messages as prescribed.

Let's move ahead and prepare our first pipeline.

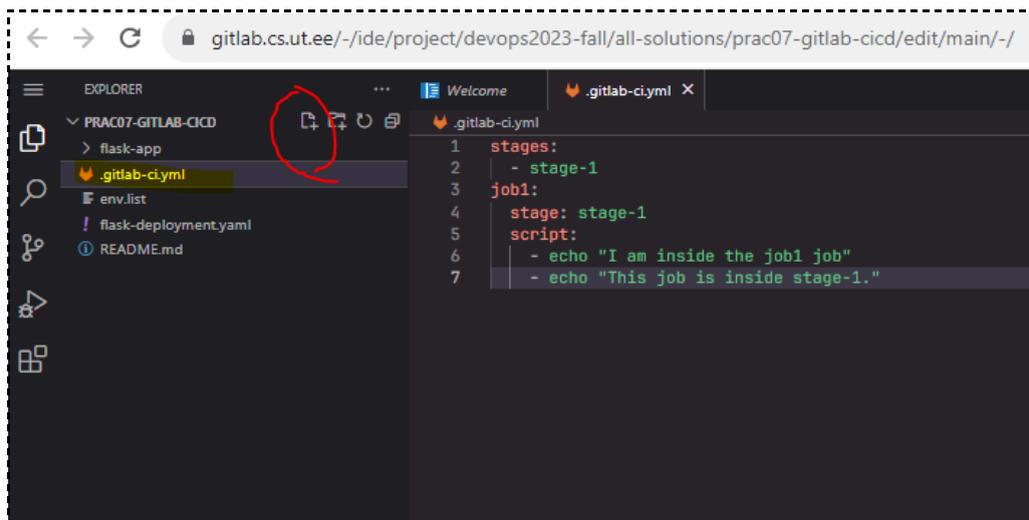
## 2.1: Single stage pipeline

- Create `.gitlab-ci.yml` CI file (You may use GitLab UI/Web IDE to create this file) and add only one stage `stage-1` as below:

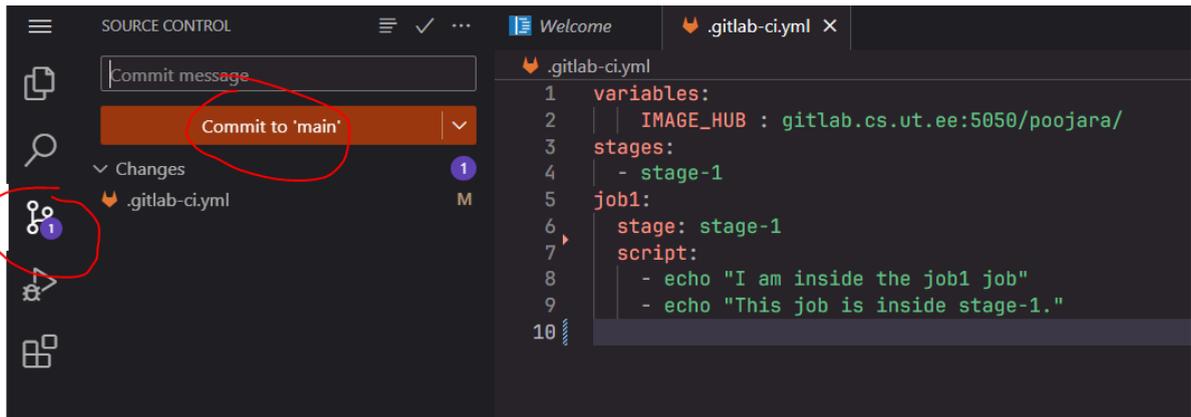


```
1 variables:
2   | IMAGE_HUB : gitlab.cs.ut.ee:5050/poojara/
3 stages:
4   - stage-1
5 job1:
6   stage: stage-1
7   script:
8     - echo "I am inside the job1 job"
9     - echo "This job is inside stage-1."
10
```

- Creating a file using Web IDE



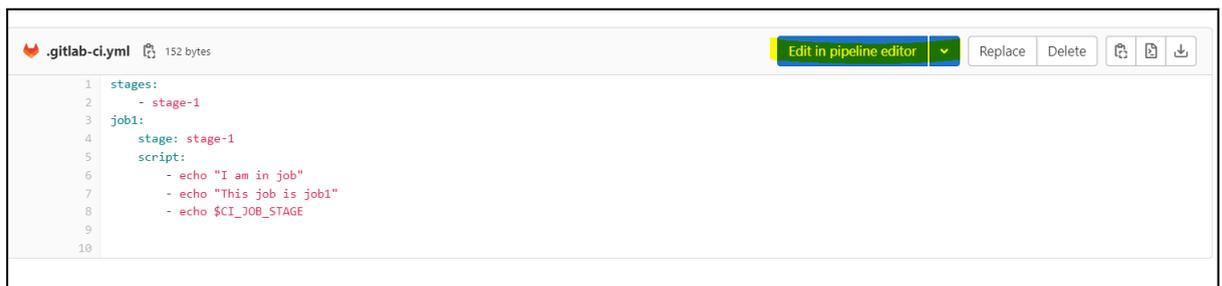
- Here the first and only job is `job1`, which will run in `stage-1` stage and tag is `shell`.
- Commit with the message "Added job-1 in stage-1" and push the above changes. Commit using Web IDE



- See the newly created pipeline and job.(You can check how to see the pipelines [here](#))

## 2.2 : Lets print some predefined and custom variables

- To modify the `.gitlab-ci.yml` in further steps, you may use Pipeline Editor in GitLab UI.



- Modify the `script` section and `echo` the following predefined variables:
  - `CI_JOB_STAGE`
  - `CI_COMMIT_BRANCH`
  - `CI_COMMIT_AUTHOR`
  - `CI_COMMIT_DESCRIPTION`
  - `CI_COMMIT_MESSAGE`
  - `CI_CONFIG_PATH`
  - `CI_JOB_NAME`
  - `CI_JOB_ID`
  - `CI_JOB_STATUS`
  - `CI_PIPELINE_ID`
  - `CI_RUNNER_ID`
- To print a predefined variable, you can use the following command in `script` section:
  - `echo $<variable_name>`
  - E.g. `echo $CI_JOB_STAGE`
  - Commit with the message "Printing predefined variables" and push the above changes.
- To see all the available variables, you can use `- export` OR `- env` in the script section.

```
script:
- echo "I am inside the job1 job."
- echo "This job is inside stage-1 stage."
- export
```

- Define your own variables in the configuration file as below. This variable is accessible to all jobs. Create the `IMAGE_HUB` as your custom variable (sample given in the below figure)

```

1  variables:
2  |   IMAGE_HUB: gitlab.cs.ut.ee:5050/poojara/
3
4  stages:
5  |   - stage-1
6  job1:
7  |   stage: stage-1
8  |   script:
9  |       - echo "I am in job"
10 |       - echo "This job is job1"
11 |       - echo $IMAGE_HUB

```

- Add an `echo` statement to print the above `IMAGE_HUB` custom variable.
- Commit with the message "Printing the user defined variables inside .gitlab-ci.yml" and push the above changes.
- The other way to define variables is by the use of the `Variables` feature in GitLab. The `Variables` feature can be found in `settings` → `CI/CD` → `Expand Variables`. These variables can be used in other pipelines as well.
  - Add a variable '`my_project_wide_variable`' with value `<your_name>` in `settings` → `CI/CD` → `Expand Variables`.
  - `echo` the variable in the pipeline under the `script` section.
- Create a variable to store the GitLab access token using Variable feature
  - Add a variable `gitlabpassword` with value of access token created in `Exercise 1`
- Commit with the message "Printing the user variables" and push the above changes.

## 2.3 : Let the pipeline run on a specific gitlab-runner.

- At this moment, you have already registered your specific gitlab-runner with the tags `build` and `deploy`.
- You will use the above tags to run your jobs in your runner in the `k8s-controller` VM.
- Modify the configuration file again, so that all the jobs will run in your specific runner.

```

job1:
  stage: stage-1
  tags:
  - build

```

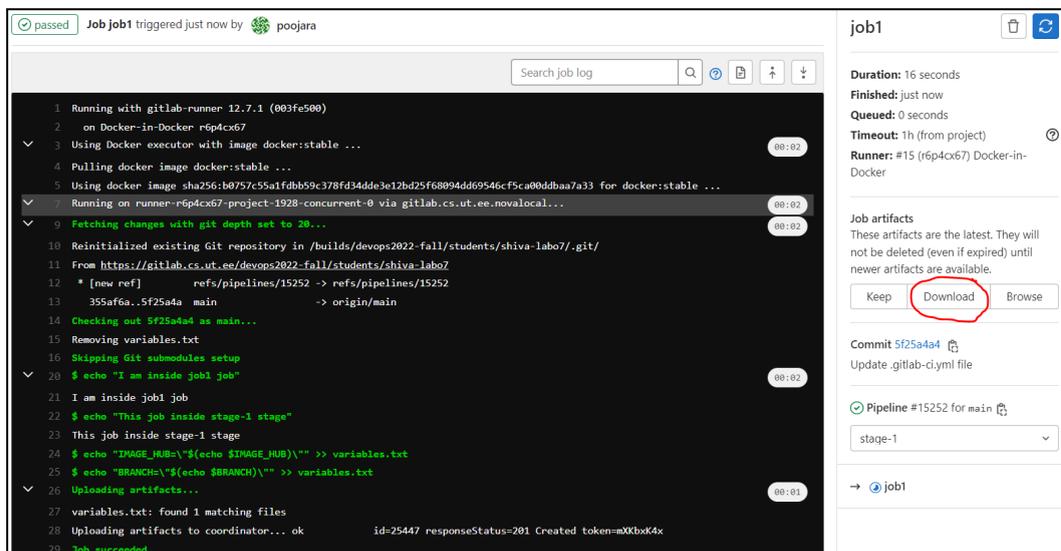
- Commit with the message "Added the tags" and push the above changes.
- See the newly created pipeline and job.

## 2.4: Working with GitLab job artifacts, “before\_script”, “script”, and “after\_script”

- Artifacts are used to specify which files to save as job artifacts. Jobs can output an archive of files and directories. This output is known as a job artifact.
  - Artifacts can be mentioned as shown below. Update your `.gitlab-ci.yml` file as shown below

```
.gitlab-ci.yml
1  variables:
2    | IMAGE_HUB : gitlab.cs.ut.ee:5050/poojara/
3  stages:
4    - stage-1
5  job1:
6    stage: stage-1
7    script:
8      - echo "I am inside the job1 job"
9      - echo "This job is inside stage-1."
10     - echo "IMAGE_HUB=\"$(echo $IMAGE_HUB)\\"" >> variables.txt
11     - echo "CI_COMMIT_BRANCH=\"$(echo $CI_COMMIT_BRANCH)\\"" >> variables.txt
12   artifacts:
13     paths:
14       - variables.txt
```

- Commit with the message “Added artifacts for job1” and push the above changes.
- You can download your job artifacts, after the pipeline is executed



- The `before_script`, and `after_script` are used to define an array of commands that should run before and after all the jobs under `script` tag,
  - Add the code as shown below

```

1 variables:
2   IMAGE_HUB: gitlab.cs.ut.ee:5050/poojara/
3
4 stages:
5   - stage-1
6 job1:
7   stage: stage-1
8   before_script:
9     - echo "Execute this command before any 'script:' commands."
10
11  script:
12    - echo "I am inside job1 job"
13    - echo "This job inside stage-1 stage"
14    - echo "IMAGE_HUB=\"$(echo $IMAGE_HUB)\"" >> variables.txt
15    - echo "BRANCH=\"$(echo $BRANCH)\"" >> variables.txt
16  after_script:
17    - echo "Execute this command after any 'script:' commands."
18  artifacts:
19    paths:
20    - variables.txt

```

- Commit with the message “Added before and after script references” and push the above changes.

## Exercise 3: Working with gitlab container registry

In this task, you modify the flask web application, create its docker image, and push it to the gitlab container registry. Further, you are going to deploy it on k8s cluster.

In this step, we will prepare a flask web application. So at this point, you have a `flask-app/Dockerfile` and `flask-app/templates/home.html` files in the gitlab project.

- Modify an `home.html` file inside `/templates` directory.
  - Add (inside `<body>` tag) the following content to your html file to display the message  

```
“Hi I am <your_name> !! This is to demonstrate the gitlab image build”
```
- Now, you need to update the `.gitlab-ci.yml` file with two stages: `build` and `run`. At this point, we can remove the previous stage `stage-1`

```

stages:
- build
- run

```

- Create an `IMAGE_NAME` variable with the value under variables.
  - Here, `name_space` could be your gitlab project path
    - Example,  
`devops2023-fall/students/devops2023fall-<lastname>-<studyCode>`
  - `image_name` could be `prac07`
  - `project_name` could be `prac07-gitlab-cicd`

```
IMAGE_NAME: gitlab.cs.ut.ee:5050/<name_space>/<project_name>/<image_name>
```

Ex: `IMAGE_NAME`:

`gitlab.cs.ut.ee:5050/devops2023-fall/students/devops2023fall-oxxn-c18xx39/prac07-gitlab-cicd/prac7`

- Now let's create two jobs:
  - `build_image` to build the image
  - `run_image` to run the image
- Define `build_image` job in `.gitlab-ci.yml` file

This job should run in the `build` stage.

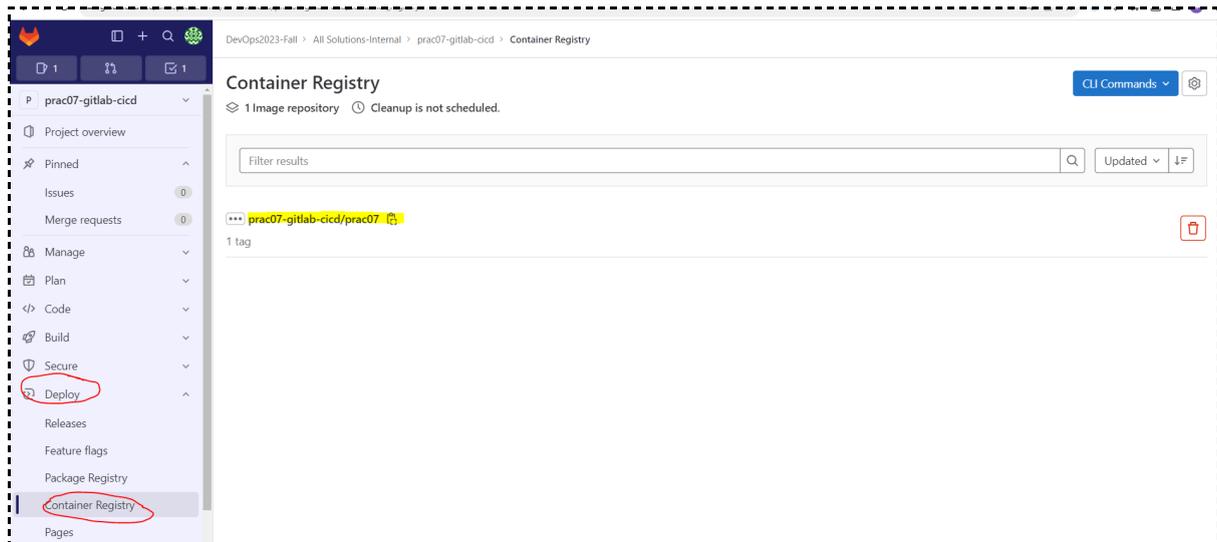
Under `script`:

- Login to gitlab. Make sure that the `gitlabpassword` variable is defined in your Gitlab project. (Change username `poojara` to your github username)  
`docker login -u poojara -p $gitlabpassword $CI_REGISTRY`
- Build the docker image using `Dockerfile` present in the project directory.  
`docker build -t $IMAGE_NAME -f ./flask-app/Dockerfile ./flask-app`
- Push the docker image to the container registry.  
`docker push $IMAGE_NAME`
- Add the tags

The updated `.gitlab-ci.yml` file should look similar to below. Below image is just for reference purpose.

```
.gitlab-ci.yml
1 variables:
2   IMAGE_HUB : gitlab.cs.ut.ee:5050/poojara/
3   IMAGE_NAME : gitlab.cs.ut.ee:5050/devops2023-fall/students/devops2023fall-xxxxx-c3xxxxx/prac07-gitlab-cicd/prac07
4
5
6 stages:
7   - build
8   - run
9
10 build_image:
11   stage: build
12   script:
13     - docker login -u poojara -p $gitlabpassword $CI_REGISTRY
14     - docker build -t $IMAGE_NAME -f ./flask-app/Dockerfile ./flask-app
15     - docker push $IMAGE_NAME
16
17   tags:
18     - build
19
```

- Commit with the message “Added build\_image job” and push the above changes.
- Once the pipeline is executed, you should see the container image in the gitlab registry.



- If you have errors in the job execution related to docker and gitlab runner, than please make sure you executed the following commands in the k8s-controller node
  - `sudo usermod -aG docker gitlab-runner`
  - `sudo service docker restart`
- If your pipeline failing due to error like this "dial tcp: lookup docker on 193.40.5.39:53: no such host", than please disable the shared runner in Settings-->CICD-->Runners
- Defining `run_image` job in `.gitlab-ci.yml` file .
  - This job should run in the `run` stage. Under `script`:
    - Add a command to run the ansible playbook with host.yaml file  
`ansible-playbook flask-deployment-ansible.yaml -i hosts.yaml`

The updated `.gitlab-ci.yml` file after defining `run_image` job should look like below:

```

18
19  run_image:
20    stage: run
21    script:
22      - ansible-playbook flask-deployment-ansible.yaml -i hosts.yaml
23    tags:
24      - deploy
25

```

- Modify the `flask_deployment.yml` with two things mentioned as below
  - Update `image` with value of `$IMAGE_NAME` Ex: `image: gitlab.cs.ut.ee:5050/devops2022-fall/students/shiva-labo7/prac07`
  - Add property `imagePullSecrets` under container `spec` which is required to pull the image from gitlab repo and it should look like

```

containers:
  - name: myflask
    image: gitlab.cs.ut.ee:5050/devops2023-fall/all-solutions/prac07-gitlab-cicd/prac07
    imagePullPolicy: Always

    ports:
      - containerPort: 5000
    env:
      - name: INFLUX_HOST_ADD
        valueFrom:
          configMapKeyRef:
            name: studhost
            key: host
      - name: INFLUX_ORG
        value: "UT_poojara"
      - name: INFLUX_TOKEN
        valueFrom:
          secretKeyRef:
            name: influx
            key: token
    imagePullSecrets:
      - name: registry-credentials

```

- Commit with message “added the run\_image stage” and **push** above changes.
- See the newly created pipeline and jobs.
- Login and check the deployment running in **microk8scontroller** node using command `microk8s kubectl get po,svc -o wide -n ex3`
- Get the nodePort address under service
- At the end, you should be able to see the web page at [http://microk8scontroller\\_EXT\\_IP:NODEPORT\\_ADDRESS](http://microk8scontroller_EXT_IP:NODEPORT_ADDRESS)
- If you don't see the change in the flask deployment with new pods and service, then you can add command in ansible script to delete the existing deployment and re-run the pipeline. ( `flask-deployment-ansible.yaml` )

```

tasks:
  - name: Delete the deployment by running the kubectl command if it exists
    command: "microk8s kubectl delete -f flask-deployment.yaml"

  - name: create the deployment by running the kubectl command
    command: "microk8s kubectl create -f flask-deployment.yaml"

```

### Screenshot - 1

Take a screenshot of a webpage and IP address are clearly seen.

## Exercise 4: Working with image build versioning and updating the application

In this task, you're going to update the flask web application to display the minimum and maximum temperature values on the web page. Further, you learn about container image versioning. Its not good practice to tag the images always with tag “latest” for every pipeline execution. This is because, you may run in to the following [problems](#)

- If you re-execute an older CI job (or if you run the same CI job in multiple testing / feature Git branches), the CI jobs will keep overwriting the latest tag. “latest” loses its

meaning. Your production environment will most likely become unstable if you configure it to use the latest tag of your image.

- It would become impossible to use some older version of your image on purpose in some of your deployments.
- To overcome this issue, you can use or tag the build version using GitLab CI/CD environment variables mentioned below:

<b>Git tag</b>	CI_COMMIT_TAG
<b>Git commit SHA-256 hash</b>	CI_COMMIT_SHA
<b>Shortened Git commit hash</b>	CI_COMMIT_SHORT_SHA
<b>Git branch name</b>	CI_COMMIT_BRANCH
<b>date + timestamp</b>	CI_JOB_STARTED_AT
<b>unique build number</b>	CI_JOB_ID

## 4.1 : Modify the flask application

Now, let us modify the flask application code under directory `flask-app` in the gitlab project and to modify/edit the code, you may use the gitlab Web IDE.

The screenshot shows the GitLab Web IDE interface for a project named 'shiva-labo7'. The file 'app.py' is open, and the 'Open in Web IDE' button is circled in red. The code in the editor includes imports for Flask, Response, datetime, pandas, and os, along with a main route that reads a CSV file and processes the data.

- Let us modify the app.py to calculate today's minimum and maximum temperature and add the code snippet should be added in `app.py`

- Import the datetime `import datetime`
- You can add the following code soon after this line

```
df=result[result.columns[4:]]
```

- Get today's date `today = datetime.date.today()`
- Extract the rows belongs to today `data = (df['_time'].dt.date == today)`
- Get the today's data `today_data = df[data]`
- Get minimum temperature data `minTemp = today_data['_value'].min()`
- Get maximum temperature data `maxTemp = today_data['_value'].max()`

- Finally need to pass the minTemp and maxTemp values to html as shown below (minTemp=minTemp, maxTemp=maxTemp)

```
def BK():
    return render_template('home.html',
                           pageTitle = "weather", table=[df.to_html(classes='data', index = False)], titles=df.columns.values, minTemp=minTemp, maxTemp=maxTemp)
```

- Add the duration, min value, and max value to the `home.html` file present in `/templates/home.html` directory.  
The final code look like

- Now, modify the `templates/home.html` to display min and max temp as shown below:

```
<h2>Today's minimum temperature:{{minTemp}}</h2>
<h2>Today's maximum temperature:{{maxTemp}}</h2>
```

## 4.2 : Edit .gitlab-ci.yml file

Here basically you will update `.gitlab-ci.yml` to tag a container image while building.

- Update `IMAGE_NAME`: as `IMAGE_NAME`:  
`gitlab.cs.ut.ee:5050/<name_space>/<project_name>/<image_name>:$CI_JOB_ID`
- Example:  
`gitlab.cs.ut.ee:5050/devops2023-fall/students/devops2023fall-xx-c1xx9/prac07-gitlab-cicd/prac7:$CI_JOB_ID`
  - You may use different variables as image tag, e.g. `$CI_COMMIT_SHORT_SHA`
  - You can use any of the gitlab environment variables to tag the image as mentioned in the introduction of Exercise 4.
- Add one more variable as

`RELEASE_IMAGE`:

`gitlab.cs.ut.ee:5050/<name_space>/<project_name>/<image_name>:latest`

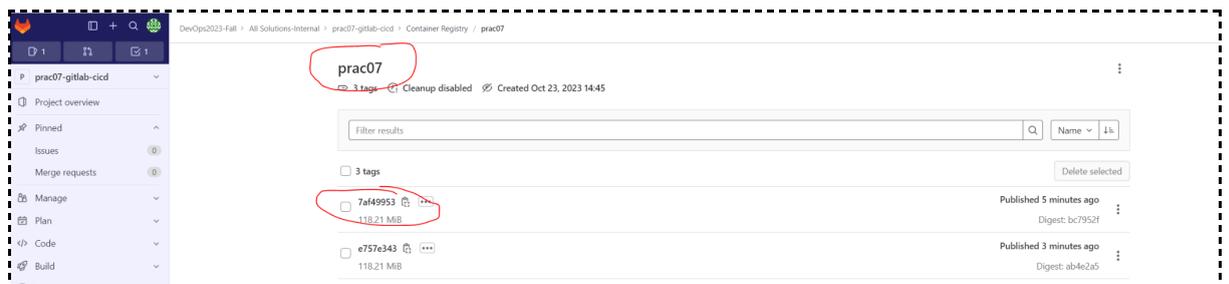
- Add two more lines under `build_image`'s `script`

```
- docker tag $IMAGE_NAME $RELEASE_IMAGE
- docker push $RELEASE_IMAGE
```

- Commit the project with message as "Updated the app.py and home.html to display min, max temp values"

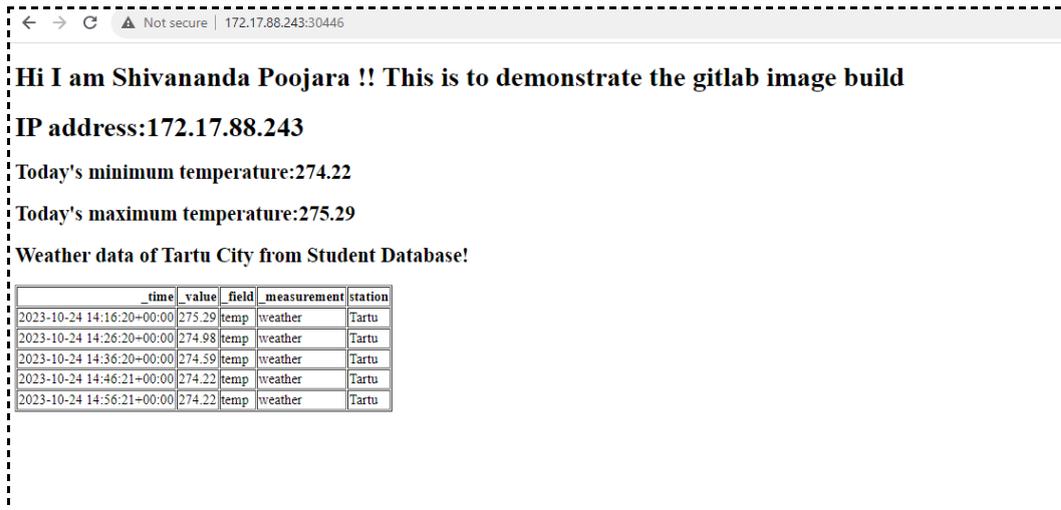
## 4.3 : Checking the output of the flask application and container registry

- Once, you commit in 4.2 the pipeline is executed and you can see the `build_image` job output in container registry as shown below

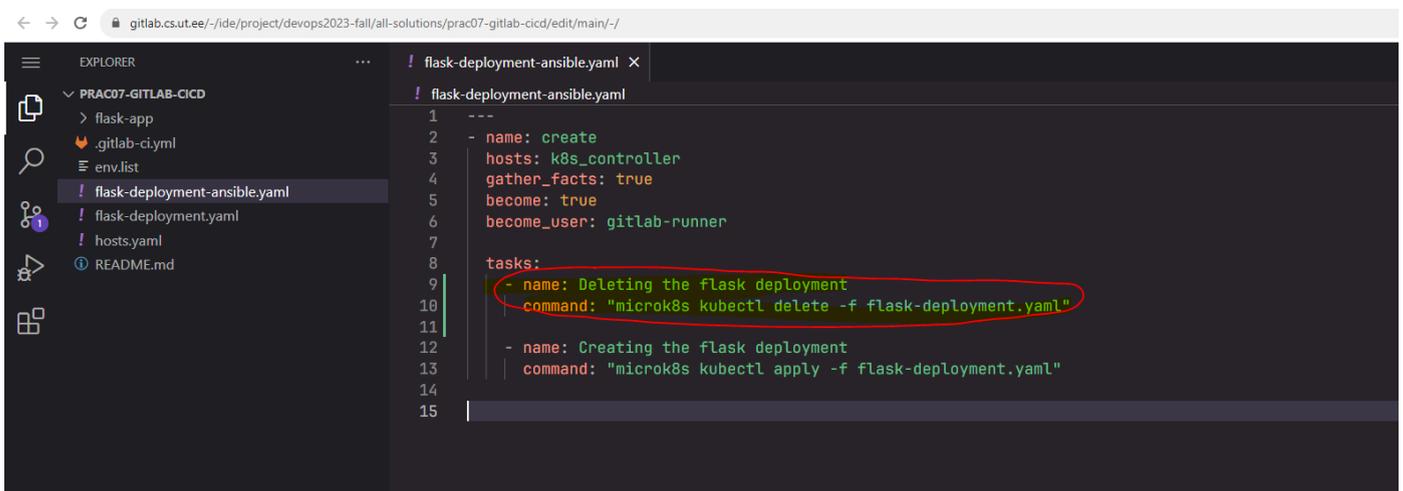


- You can check flask application running by using `microk8scontroller` external IP address and NodePort address

- The final flask application output is displayed as:



If your unable to see the changes in the flask web application, than you can add the command in flask-deployment-ansible.yaml to delete the deployment, for example:



## Screenshot - 2

Take a screenshot of a webpage and IP address are clearly seen.

Try out!! (Not compulsory task):

You may also want to consider experimenting with the deployment of the InfluxDB, InfluxDBData, and Flask microservice application for personal exploration and learning. This isn't a formal requirement for the lab; rather, it's an opportunity to explore these technologies for your own interest and enjoyment.

# Deliverables

1- Gather all the screenshots

- [Screenshot 1](#)
- [Screenshot 2](#)

2- Download code of your GitLab project

3- Zip the code, screenshot and Upload the zip file to the course wiki page.

4- You may **Stop** the Virtual Machines and you can start using the same in the next **practice session**.

**Don't delete your VMs**