Operationalizing AI to Meet Digital Accessibility Needs

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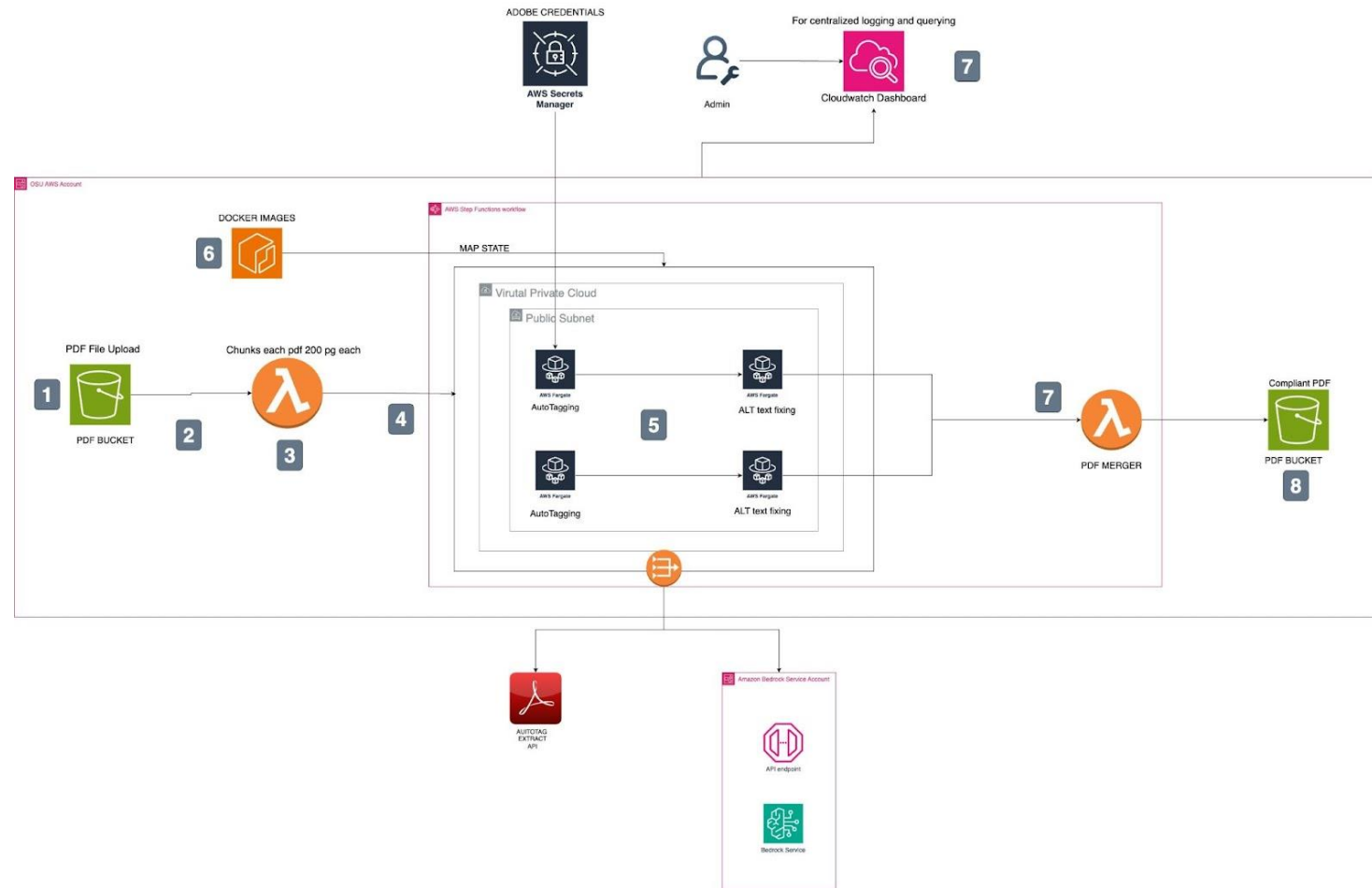
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The Problem

- In April 2024, the federal government updated digital accessibility rules for public entities operating in the United States. These updated rules changed the scope and timeline for meeting digital accessibility standards to a level beyond our current resources.

- The Ohio State University Libraries is an R1 research library, with a collection in the millions of items. The University Libraries has hundreds of thousands of digital files (PDF, images, etc.) that need to be remediated to meet the updated digital accessibility rules.

- To find a potential automated solution, the University Libraries collaborated with the Artificial Intelligence Cloud Innovation Center powered by AWS at Arizona State University to assess if a viable, cost effective, and efficient remediation solution could be developed.

The Solution

The Results

- Manual solution = ~$2-4/page (depending on the type of document)
- AI solution = ~$0.061313/page (potentially lower in production)

- Manual solution = 100-page PDF takes hours to remediate
- AI solution = 100-page PDF takes seconds to remediate

- We have developed two tools, an end-to-end PDF Remediator and an Alt Text Generator.

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