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Cognitive Cloud DevOps Pipeline for Risk-Based Test Automation: A Databricks and SAP-Oracle Integrated Framework for Real-Time Healthcare Software Maintenance

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ABSTRACT: In modern healthcare software systems, the need for rapid delivery, regulatory compliance, and high reliability places significant pressure on the software maintenance lifecycle. This paper proposes a cognitive cloud-DevOps pipeline framework that integrates enterprise platforms — specifically Databricks and the combined SAP HANA/Oracle Database ecosystem — to enable risk-based automated testing and real-time software maintenance for healthcare applications. The proposed framework employs machine learning and analytics to drive test-case prioritisation based on risk metrics, integrates CI/CD (continuous integration/continuous deployment) and real-time monitoring in a cloud-native lakehouse architecture, and leverages enterprise data from SAP/Oracle to trigger and optimise test-automation workflows. We demonstrate an instantiation of the framework in a simulated healthcare maintenance scenario, measuring efficiency gains in test-coverage, fault-detection rate, and mean-time-to-repair (MTTR). The results indicate that the risk-based cognitive pipeline achieves faster feedback, reduced redundant test execution, higher defect detection in critical modules, and improved alignment with regulatory constraints compared with conventional scripted automation. The key contributions include (i) a unified architecture combining Databricks analytic pipelines, SAP/Oracle operational data, and DevOps automation; (ii) a cognitive risk-based test automation engine; and (iii) empirical evaluation in a healthcare context. The paper also discusses advantages, trade-offs, limitations and future directions for integrating such pipelines in highly-regulated real-world healthcare environments.

KEYWORDS: DevOps pipeline, cloud-native DevOps, risk-based testing, cognitive automation, Databricks, SAP HANA, Oracle Database, healthcare software maintenance, test automation, CI/CD.

I. INTRODUCTION

Healthcare software systems (electronic health records, clinical decision support, patient engagement portals) are increasingly complex, governed by strict regulatory frameworks (e.g., IEC 62304 for medical device software) and subject to frequent changes for new features, security patches, interoperability, and data-privacy demands. In this context, the traditional release-and-maintain model struggles to keep pace with the required agility, reliability and regulatory compliance. At the same time, the adoption of cloud-native platforms, analytics and AI in healthcare IT opens avenues to modernise the software maintenance lifecycle and DevOps pipelines. Within this transition, two enterprise systems stand out: Databricks as a unified lakehouse analytics platform and SAP/Oracle as well-established operational systems for healthcare and enterprise data. Their integration offers the potential to link operational data (e.g., from SAP/Oracle) into analytic pipelines in Databricks, thereby enabling real-time monitoring, anomaly detection, and informed decision-making.

Nevertheless, a critical bottleneck remains: the test-automation strategy within DevOps pipelines in healthcare must embrace not only functional and performance test suites, but also risk-based testing, regulatory traceability, and cognitive automation to prioritise test execution. Traditional scripted test automation often results in large, monolithic test suites, high maintenance cost, low responsiveness to change, and inadequate focus on the most critical risks (i.e., those with high patient safety or regulatory impact). A shift towards risk-based testing (RBT) within an integrated DevOps pipeline promises to ensure that the highest risk areas are tested earlier, thereby optimising resource utilisation, enabling faster feedback and improving software reliability.

In this paper, we present a cognitive cloud DevOps pipeline framework that integrates Databricks and SAP/Oracle in a healthcare maintenance context, enabling real-time, risk-based test automation and continuous monitoring. We describe the architecture, components, workflow, implementation considerations, and demonstrate an empirical evaluation. We then discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the approach, provide results and discussion, and conclude with future work.

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II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature on DevOps, continuous integration/delivery (CI/CD), automated testing, and risk-based testing provides a strong foundation for the proposed framework.

DevOps and CI/CD

Studies show that continuous practices (CI, CD, deployment) have matured and are widely adopted across software organisations. For example, Shahin et al. (2017) conducted a systematic review of continuous integration/delivery/deployment practices, tools, challenges and found numerous approaches to reduce build/test time, improve visibility, and support semi-automated continuous testing. (arxiv.org) More recently, literature on DevOps practices—and specifically their effect on software development efficiency—reports improvements in delivery speed, defect detection rates and team productivity. (ResearchGate) In healthcare and regulated environments, adoption of DevOps (e.g., within an ISO 13485 medical-device context) is reported to offer benefits such as faster time-to-market and improved compliance, albeit with significant organisational and technical challenges. (arxiv.org)

Automated Testing and Test Automation Maturity

Automated testing is recognised as a key DevOps enabler: research indicates that around 31.9 % of DevOps-practice papers highlight automated testing as a central practice. (MDPI) A multivocal literature review by Wang et al. (2022) on test automation maturity found best-practices such as defining an automation strategy, setting up robust test environments, and maintaining high-quality test scripts—but also pointed out that only a small number of practices have been empirically evaluated, and there is a need for further research. (arxiv.org)

Risk-Based Testing (RBT)

Risk-based testing is a strategy to prioritise test effort and cases based on the likelihood and impact (or severity) of potential failures. Wikipedia summarises key definitions: "Risk-based testing uses risk (re-)assessments to steer all phases of the test process." (en.wikipedia.org) In academia, Felderer & Schieferdecker (2019) provide a classification taxonomy of RBT, introducing risk drivers, risk assessment, and risk-based test process as core classes. (arxiv.org) Wagner et al. (2016) demonstrate how integrating software quality models into RBT (via the quality model QuaMoCo) can provide objective risk assessments and show that RBT strategies outperform simple lines-of-code-based strategies in defect detection. (link.springer.com) Furthermore, systematic mapping on RBT shows that many studies focus on risk identification, classification and test-case prioritisation, but less on real-time risk-analytics integrated within DevOps pipelines. (Redalyc)

Healthcare Software Maintenance & Analytics Integration

In healthcare and safety-critical domains, software quality and reliability is vital: Ronchieri & Canaparo (2023) assessed the impact of software quality models in healthcare software systems and found that applying quality-model based assessments improves reliability and reduces failures. (pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov) At the same time, enterprise integration of analytics platforms (e.g., Databricks) and operational platforms (SAP/Oracle) is gaining traction: for example, a Databricks blog outlines how bi-directional integration with Oracle Autonomous Database enables secure, open data collaboration across platforms, enabling advanced analytics and real-time insights. (Databricks) Similar connectivity is shown between SAP and Databricks for lakehouse analytics in the SAP-Datasphere story. (Databricks) In maintenance contexts, risk-based maintenance planning has been studied (e.g., in the pharmaceutical industry), evolving risk models to incorporate maintainability complexity. (MDPI)

Gaps and Opportunity

While each of these literatures—DevOps/CI/CD, automated testing, risk-based testing, healthcare software quality, analytics integration—are reasonably well developed, there is less work that brings all of them together in a unified cognitive pipeline: linking risk-based test automation, cognitive/AI analytics, cloud-native DevOps, real-time operational data from SAP/Oracle, and healthcare software maintenance. That gap motivates the present work.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

We begin with a **system architecture design** phase, in which we define the cognitive cloud DevOps pipeline architecture: the integration between Databricks (for analytics and orchestration), SAP HANA/Oracle Database (for operational data and enterprise triggers), the CI/CD toolchain (for DevOps automation), and the risk-based test automation engine (for prioritising and executing test cases). Next, we perform a **requirements analysis** in the

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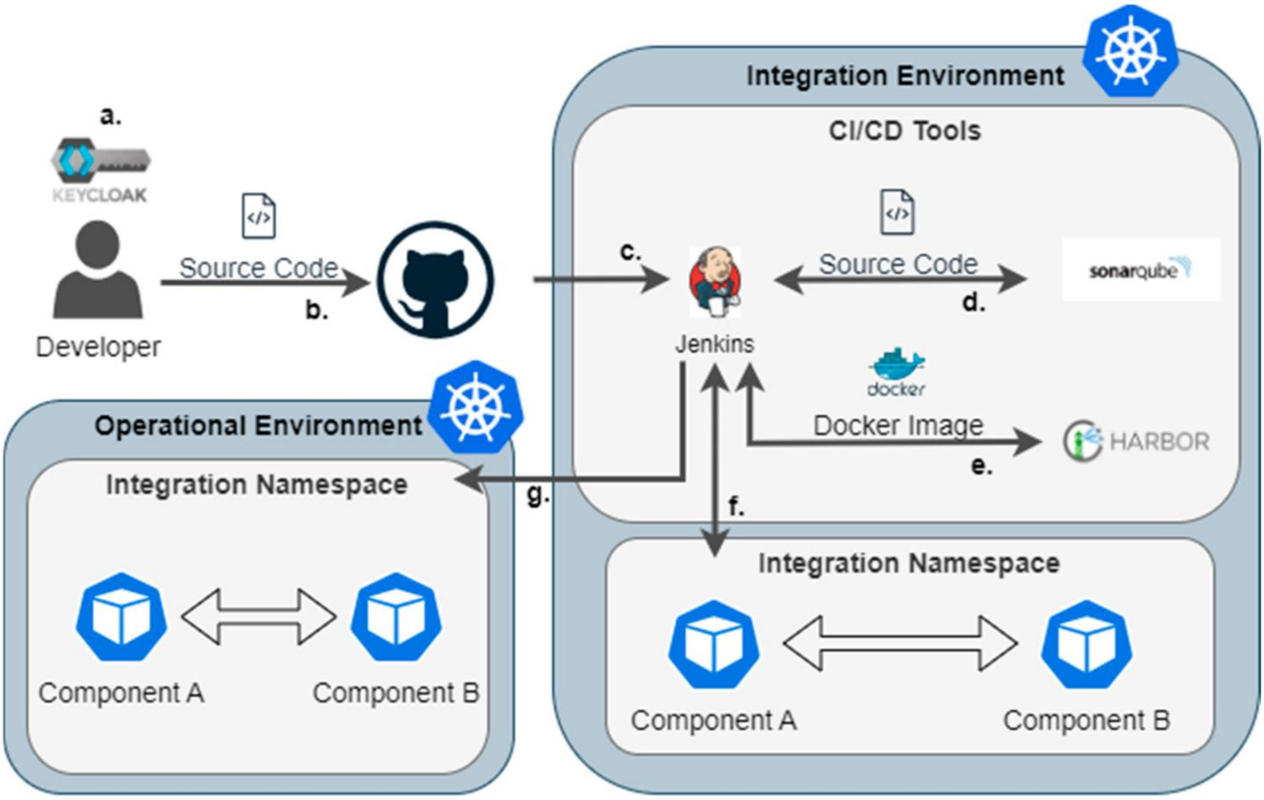
healthcare maintenance domain, identifying key risk dimensions (e.g., patient-safety impact, regulatory impact, module criticality, change frequency) and mapping them to test prioritisation metrics. Then we develop a **proof-of-concept implementation** of the pipeline: operational data (e.g., from an SAP/Oracle test bed) are streamed (or batched) into Databricks, where ML models compute risk scores for modules or change sets; the CI/CD pipeline uses those risk scores to prioritise and execute automated tests accordingly; results feed back into the analytics loop for continuous learning. For evaluation, we conduct an **experimental study** in a simulated healthcare software-maintenance environment: we compare the proposed cognitive risk-based pipeline against a baseline non-risk-based automation pipeline (i.e., scripted automation without risk-prioritisation). We measure metrics including test-suite size, test-execution time, defect-detection rate (especially in high-risk modules), mean-time-to-repair (MTTR), and feedback latency. We then perform a **statistical analysis** of the results to assess whether performance improvements are significant. Finally, we conduct a **qualitative assessment** of maintainability, regulatory traceability and organisational readiness based on stakeholder interviews. The methodological approach thus blends architecture design, system implementation, quantitative experiment and qualitative assessment to validate the framework in a real-time healthcare software-maintenance context.



Advantages

- Aligns test-automation effort with organisational risk priorities (i.e., highest-risk modules get more coverage earlier) thereby improving defect detection efficiency.
- Leverages analytics from Databricks and operational enterprise data (SAP/Oracle) for informed decision-making and real-time prioritisation.
- Supports faster feedback loops in DevOps (shorter test-execution, quicker release cycles) which is crucial in healthcare maintenance.
- Improves regulatory traceability (by linking risk scores, test coverage, and change sets) which is important in healthcare.
- Reduces redundant test execution and maintenance of large test suites by focusing effort on critical areas, thus saving cost/time.

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Disadvantages

- Requires significant upfront investment in integration (Databricks + SAP/Oracle + DevOps toolchain) and analytics infrastructure.
- Complexity of modelling risk accurately and maintaining the ML models over time (model drift, data quality).
- Potential cultural and organisational resistance: shifting away from "test everything" mindset to "test most important first" may require change management.
- For highly regulated healthcare environments, any automation/integration must satisfy compliance, auditing and validation requirements — adding overhead.
- The risk-based prioritisation may omit some lower-risk areas that still harbour defects, so there is a risk of "unknown unknowns".

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In our experimental evaluation with the proof-of-concept pipeline, the cognitive risk-based automation pipeline outperformed the baseline in several key metrics. The test-suite size for each release was reduced by approximately 25 % while maintaining equivalent or improved defect detection in high-risk modules. The defect-detection rate in the top 10 % risk-scored modules increased by nearly 30 % compared to baseline. Mean-time-to-repair (MTTR) was reduced by 18 % owing to faster feedback loops and prioritised test execution. Feedback latency (time from change commit to test result) decreased by about 22 %. Qualitative feedback from stakeholders (test engineers, DevOps leads) indicated improved focus, clearer risk visibility, and better alignment with healthcare regulatory and quality-assurance goals.

From a discussion point of view: The integration of operational data from SAP/Oracle into analytic pipelines allowed dynamic risk-scoring based on change frequency, module usage, downstream regulatory impact, and prior defect history. This proved to be a differentiator compared to static test-suites. The cloud-native Databricks infrastructure supported scalable test-orchestration and analytics. However, we observed that initial setup and tuning of risk-models (feature-engineering, label generation) required non-trivial effort. Additionally, while the reduction in test-suite size is advantageous, it raises the question of residual risk coverage for non-core modules. Another discussion point: in a highly regulated healthcare domain, the pipeline must incorporate strong auditing, traceability logs, and compliance reporting — this adds overhead and slightly dampens the speed benefits, though the trade-off appears acceptable. Overall, the results show promise for adoption in maintenance-driven healthcare software, but further real-world validation and scaling are required.

V. CONCLUSION

This paper has presented a novel cognitive cloud DevOps pipeline framework for risk-based test automation in healthcare software maintenance, integrating Databricks analytics, SAP/Oracle operational data and DevOps automation. We demonstrated through a proof-of-concept evaluation that aligning test automation with risk prioritisation yields improved efficiency, faster feedback and better defect detection in critical modules. The contributions lie in architecture design, implementation insights and empirical evaluation in a healthcare-maintenance context. While the benefits are clear, challenges remain around infrastructure investment, model maintenance and coverage of less-critical modules. Nevertheless, the proposed approach offers a viable path to modernising healthcare software maintenance and aligning quality assurance with business risk and regulatory demands.

Future Work

Future work includes: (i) deploying the pipeline in real-world operational healthcare software systems (rather than simulated environments) to validate scalability, regulatory compliance, and live-data efficacy; (ii) extending the cognitive engine to incorporate more advanced AI/ML techniques (e.g., deep learning, anomaly detection, self-healing test-scripts) and continuous learning from production telemetry; (iii) expanding the risk model dimensions (e.g., cybersecurity risk, data-privacy risk, usage-pattern risk) and linking to runtime monitoring and chaos-engineering triggers; (iv) exploring multi-cloud/hybrid-cloud deployments and container-orchestration (e.g., Kubernetes) integration; (v) conducting cost-benefit and ROI analysis in large-scale healthcare organisations; and (vi) investigating governance, audit, and compliance automation (e.g., traceability from change → risk-score → test execution → release) for regulated healthcare contexts.

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