ReleaseTEAM

August 2014

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August is here and things are heating up!

Technical Debt - Good vs Bad

Last month we gave you a definition from Wikipedia for Technical Debt (TD). Thanks to all of you that sent in your examples of technical debt. It is always more enjoyable to hear how TD is created out in the real world of software development. This month we want to expand on the concept by giving you some more things to consider.

> *Martin Fowler has a number of articles on Technical Debt. His article from 2003 expands on the metaphor*
> *http://martinfowler.com/bliki/TechnicalDebt.html*

Martin suggests an example where you need to add a piece of functionality to your system. You think of two ways to do it, one is quick to do but is messy. The other is a cleaner design, but it will take longer. Software developers make these choices all the time. Good developers know they are making this choice and there are others that do not. At some future point in time this software development choice may be called a design flaw. The real crux of the problem is when you learn that many other parts of the system now depend on this 'design flaw' without the time to fix or replace it.

At the time the decision was made the team may have made a good decision to move forward fast and get the release out the door. The future decisions to build even more functionality on top of a design flaw are probably made without the knowledge of the true risks. Some of the people that made the original decision probably left the company. One or two years later some poor manager learns that 4 or 5 mission critical systems are built on top of design flaws that no one has time to go back and correct.

> *See Martin's other article on the*
> *Technical Debt Quadrant from 2009.*
> *http://martinfowler.com/bliki/TechnicalDebtQuadrant.html*

ReleaseTEAM is available to help you get out of Technical Debt. Our consultants are ready to help you prioritize one component at a time or one project at a time and get things back on track. We are available to help you do the things your developers don't have time to do. Just give us a call or send an email to sales@releaseTEAM.com

ReleaseTEAM's Spotlight

Jim Donovan- IBM Senior Client Technical Professional (CTP)

Jim Donovan

When an IBM sales representative or Business Partner introduces a "CTP" to one of their prospects or clients, the main objective is to ensure the prospect walks away with all of their questions answered, fully understands the functionality of the product and sees the true value of moving forward with the IBM Rational tools. When you bring Jim Donovan into the picture, not only has the above criteria been met, but the prospect is delighted!

Jim is very personable, knowledgeable, and attentive to detail. He works extremely hard for all of the prospects and customers, and is always well liked. He is a great team player, involving everyone in each discussion and has a very positive, upbeat spirit. His in-depth technical product knowledge blends very well with his keen sales awareness. Jim is not only a great with clients, but also loves to help other colleagues and Rational Business Partners.

Jim joined IBM 4 ½ years ago and has been supporting the Rational Brand (pre-sales, post-sales, and professional services) in the Military, Aerospace, Government, and Municipal sectors for software development tools, real time, embedded systems, desktop solutions, and enterprise-wide deployments. His expertise is Agile methodology, Rational Team Concert "RTC", Jazz/CLM, requirements, and model driven development; but also has an in-depth knowledge of build automation and requirement management.

Prior to joining IBM Jim worked in technical sales and direct sales support for 11 ½ years and as a System Engineer for 16 years. He graduated from the University of Vermont with a Bachelor's in Computer Science. Outside of work Jim enjoys spending time with his family, the Congregational Church, yoga, skiing, hiking, reading, photography, music, and traveling.

If you ever get the opportunity to work with Jim, I highly recommend you do so. I promise he will is delightful and you will never forget him or the experience you encountered while working with him!

ReleaseTEAM's Partner Showcase

ReleaseTEAM is an Atlassian Expert Partner and is attending the Atlassian Summit!

Atlassian Expert

An Atlassian Expert is trusted to bring excellent support and worthwhile experience to anyone who made need it. Atlassian offers a wide variety of tools that all integrate with each other seamlessly and easily, and having an expert resource like ReleaseTEAM would be invaluable to maximize the potential of these tools. So check out our Atlassian landing page, as well as all of Atlassian's easy-to-use and beautifully designed products.

Atlassian Summit

The Atlassian Summit is an annual event hosted by Atlassian to showcase products, get advice, meet experts, and get to know people who use these tools. Whether you're a developer, project manager, support agent, or marketplace vendor, Summit was designed for you. This year's event will be held in San Jose on September 9th through the 11th and includes training, announcements, networking, and all that good stuff. So if you're in the market to learn how these tools can help you, and you want all the opinions you could ever want, head on over to summit.atlassian.com to learn more.

Atlassian News

There have been several big announcements coming from Atlassian recently, here are just a few of them to let you know what is going on. Of course, we keep a steady stream of this news over at releasteam.com/Atlassian-news, so check that out if you ever need a more in-depth look at up and coming Atlassian updates.

- Agile Ready, a new package solution containing JIRA, JIRA Agile, and Confluence is announced
- Atlassian is introducing Confluence Questions as a new Q&A platform
- JIRA is being adapted for use as a High-Availablilty data center with Atlassian Enterprise

Debunking the Top Myths about DevOps

CA has come up with a new booklet to help enterprises looking to move into DevOps break out the myth from the reality. CA says DevOps is real and is delivering real benefits, but that doesn't stop people from having adverse ideas about it. In the booklet, titled Dysfunction Junction - A Pragmatic Guide to Getting Started with DevOps, CA looks at what it deems are the five biggest myths about DevOps. The move to DevOps has been prompted by demands for newer, better, faster applications. And nothing has impacted software development more than the advent of mobile, social, big data, the Internet of things and cloud environments, where rapid development of apps is a must and DevOps is king.

With DevOps, developers and line-of-business operations are able to work together to develop faster than traditional methods of developing software by integrating all organizational systems, simplifying testing and quality assurance, and providing faster access to feedback. This allows the continuous delivery of apps through more intelligent use of app analytics, better management of projects, increased ability for market tests and a more rapid release schedule of new features. DevOps is catching on more than ever among more agile IT groups and now, based on survey data from CA, it is apparent that DevOps is indeed not only a way to produce better software faster, but also to drive revenue.

Check out the slides here

Docker: The first true DevOps tool?

Docker has attracted a lot of attention lately, with major vendors contributing to the containerization technology. The company is venturing into acquisitions, services like StackDock.com and Drone.io are emerging, and Docker technology is being embraced as a solid complement for the Java Virtual Machine.

To get the latest insights into Docker and where it is headed, InfoWorld Editor at Large Paul Krill met with Docker Vice President James Turnbull at the recent O'Reilly Open Source Convention in Portland., Ore. Turnbull is responsible for customer-facing business and has contributed to the Docker project.

Click here for the full article

Seminar on Measuring and Managing Software Risk, Security, and Technical Debt

The Consortium for IT Software Quality (CISQ) is pleased to announce that it will be hosting the seminar, "Measuring and Managing Software Risk, Security, and Technical Debt" at the Sheraton at the Capitol in Austin, TX on Wednesday, September 17th. The event will be co-sponsored by The Center for Advanced Research in Software Engineering (ARiSE), University of Texas (UT).

[Click here for the full article](#)

The Puzzler

The winner of June's puzzler was Sean D.! Congratulations and enjoy your gift card! Here is the solution to last month's question:

Last Month's Puzzler:

Shawn is playing the lottery, he has picked his 6 numbers and is excited to win big. On his drive home from work, while listening to the radio, the DJ reads out the winning numbers that were pulled last night. After hearing the first number read, Shawn shouts out in excitement, nearly swerving off the road in his jubilation. "I WON! I WON!" He proclaims, not bothering to listen for the other 5 numbers. Assuming he actually did win, how does he know he won from just hearing the first number?

Solution: Shawn picked the last 6 numbers available to play, and being that he heard it on the radio, he knew they were reading it sequentially. If he initially heard the number 6 away from the last number, he can deduce the rest of the sequence.

This month's Puzzler:

Mr. Cherry, Mr. Apple and Mr. Pumpkin are fighting over who bakes the best pies. They each get some pies and take turns throwing them at one another until only one person is left without pie on them. Mr. Cherry, who hits his target 1/3 of the time, gets to throw first. Mr. Apple, who hits his target 2/3 of the time, gets to throw next, assuming he is still clean. Mr. Pumpkin, who hits his target all the time, throws next, assuming he is also clean. The cycle repeats. **If you are Mr. Cherry, where should you throw your first pie for the highest chance of survival?**

Send us in your answers and we will randomly pick a winner from all the correct answers to win a $25 ReleaseTEAM gift card. If you'd like to send us puzzlers of your own, feel free to do so!

Send your answers to puzzler@releaseteam.com.