



ReleaseTEAM

August 2017



Welcome to our August Newsletter

Are we the only ones who cannot believe it is already August? The year has flown by... It's almost time for the dog-days of summer to transition into back-to-school season. In this newsletter we have compiled a wealth of information for your DevOps edification. We hope this jam-packed information resource is a great time saver for our friends in the industry.

Coming up soon we have the SmartBear Connect Users Conference September 12 – 13 in Boston and GitHub Universe October 10 – 12 in San Francisco.

In this newsletter we are highlighting the Agile Alliance Conference August 7 - 11 in Orlando (Chris Fulton, a new ReleaseTEAM member will be a featured speaker on Databases and Continuous Deployment), the Atlassian Summit September 12 – 13 in San Jose and the Tasktop Connect Conference, October 4th in Columbus. Read on for more details.

We are also highlighting several new product releases and upgrades including the new release Tasktop Integration Hub 17.3; the new release of GitLab 9.4 with Related Issues and Web Application Monitoring; GitLab's new expanded Auto DevOps functionality; GitHub's new Soft U2F, a software U2F authenticator for macOS; and GitHub's new features that focus on open source community.

Regarding webinars ... On August 22nd GitHub is hosting an excellent discussion on communicating effectively with remote teams including teams in varied time zones. We would also like to highlight two additional on-demand Tasktop webinars: Automating change, request, flow and traceability across the value stream and getting visual with value streams.

We have included several excellent articles you may have missed including the five skills every DevOps engineer must master; a reminder to not be ageist because in the DevOps era experience matters; the cloud and DevOps: the perfect marriage; and finally a great article in which experts share their views on how to do DevOps right.

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And finally a moment of shameless publicity. We have included a link to a recent GitLab press release announcing the addition of GitLab to ReleaseTEAM's GSA approved product and services line-up. Our team worked incredibly hard to accomplish this GSA approval and we are thrilled! Sometimes you just gotta toot your own horn. Am I right?

Please be sure to submit your answer to The Puzzler question at the end of this newsletter for the opportunity to win a \$27 gift card. From all of us at ReleaseTEAM we truly hope you enjoy the month of August. We are thankful for your great contributions to the DevOps community and look forward to facilitating your success!

Upcoming Conferences

Agile Alliance, August 7 – 11 Orlando, Florida

The Agile Alliance annual North American conference is dedicated to furthering Agile principles and providing a venue for people and ideas to flourish. This is where the Agile tribes meet. Register today and join fellow Agilists from more than 40 countries who make the trek each year to participate in this week-long exploration of the best in Agile practices!

The conference brings renowned innovators, gurus and authors, thought leaders, and expert practitioners to you from all corners of the globe. Agile Developers, Executives, Teams, Managers, Coaches, and Consultants come to our annual conference each year to learn from world-class experts who share their passion for Agile.

The conference offers 274 sessions that speak to new and seasoned Agile professionals, individuals and teams, and initiatives both small and large. Wherever you are in your Agile journey, you'll be able to find the specific expertise most pertinent to your success.

And as mentioned above our own Chris Fulton, a new ReleaseTEAM member will be a featured speaker on Databases and Continuous Deployment. Member and group/team discounts are available! Please note: After last year's sellout, registration is now capped at 2,500 attendees. [For registration information click here.](#)

Atlassian Summit, September 12 – 14 San Jose, California

How could we not mention the Atlassian Summit coming up in September? This is simply an event not to be missed. Summit is Atlassian's annual user conference and their biggest global event of the year. Teams from around the world will come together to be inspired and transform the way they work. Summit allows you to learn new things, be inspired by the latest innovations, network with like-minded industry professionals, stay on top of the Atlassian product roadmaps and simply have a great time.

You can sharpen your skills with two full days of training before the conference kicks off. You will hear how industry leaders build strong and focused teams at all levels and you can network with teams from around the world to learn how they use the same products you do to achieve exceptional outcomes.

Whether you're a first-timer or repeat attendee there is something for everyone at the Summit. It is the place to lay the foundation for your success and sharpen your product skills. It is a networking event like non-other. Mark your calendars now to join ReleaseTEAM and be a part of the largest gathering of product users in the world in San Jose, California. [For registration information click here.](#)

Tasktop Connect, October 4 Columbus , Ohio

Tasktop Connect is a one day, one track conference featuring sessions on the challenges we face in software delivery and how to better improve our processes and achieve greater visibility across our value stream. You will learn Agile and DevOps best practices for achieving end-to-end visibility and traceability across your software development and delivery value stream.

You will learn how to create a powerful holistic approach to software development and delivery , implement successful Agile and DevOps transformations and build modular toolchains that leverage best-of-breed products. Featured speakers include industry leaders at IT Revolution, Nationwide, Lockheed Martin, TIAA and Vivit. Early bird registration is still available. [For information click here.](#)

New Product Releases / Enhancements

New Release of Tasktop 17.3 and the Related Webinar on August 8th

Join Task Top on August 8th as they demonstrate how to automate the creation of defects in HPE Quality Center when vulnerabilities are detected by WhiteHat Sentinel, improve compliance by providing traceability between vulnerabilities and their fixes, and enable real-time reporting on status of security vulnerabilities.

From improved troubleshooting and integration configuration to support for disaster recovery processes and the easy integration expansion, Tasktop's latest release simplifies the management of your complex integration landscape. Below are some highlights of the Tasktop 17.3 release. [For more information click here.](#)

GitLab 9.4 Released with Related Issues and Web Application Monitoring

The new release of GitLab 9.4 lays the foundation of much that is to come, while still giving you some new powers today. You can now formally relate issues to each other, our out-of-the-box-magic monitoring now collects many more metrics without any configuration and we've quadrupled the things you can do with variables in CI.

On top of this, GitLab is giving you an actual glimpse into the future with a opt-in Beta of our new navigation. They hope that they can work with you to make it an improvement everyone loves. GitLab is also thrilled to announce that they are shipping a GitLab PowerUp for Trello, making it easy for you to integrate your Trello boards with GitLab!

In addition, to empower their integrations set, they are keen to make your life easier with our new Slack App for GitLab.com! And if one glimpse doesn't suffice, they are aiming to fully automate the configuration of your DevOps toolchain with the vision of Auto DevOps, which will analyze your application and automatically configure your CI/CD pipeline to build, test, and deploy to Kubernetes. [To read more and see where GitLab is heading in the future click here.](#)

GitLab Automates DevOps with New Concept: Auto DevOps

GitLab is transforming its offerings of version control and continuous integration with a new integrated and automatic DevOps experience: Auto DevOps. This Auto DevOps concept was designed to help developers deliver ideas to production faster. It is GitLab's new collection of features for building, testing and deploying applications, as well as features for review apps and setting up code quality.

These features are critical to DevOps, according to Mark Pundsack, head of product at GitLab, and while they exist at some level within GitLab already, the idea is to “level them up” and have the components enabled automatically with no configuration from developers, he said.

“We realize auto has some ambiguity, since much of DevOps is about automation,” said Pundsack. “What we really mean [by Auto DevOps] is it is just automatically enabled so you don't have to configure anything. It's a zero-click installation or configuration idea.” [To read the full article click here.](#)

GitHub Introduces Soft U2F, a software U2F authenticator for macOS

In an effort to increase the adoption of FIDO U2F second factor authentication, we're releasing Soft U2F—a software-based U2F authenticator for macOS. Soft U2F currently works with Google Chrome and Opera's built-in U2F implementations, as well as with the U2F extensions for Safari and Firefox.

When a site loaded in a U2F-compatible browser attempts to register or authenticate with the software token, you'll see a notification asking you to accept or reject the request. You can experiment on Yubico's U2F demo site:

And as of today, you can download the Soft U2F installer and configure it for use with your GitHub account. Interested in learning more? Head over to the GitHub Engineering Blog and read more about the motivations for the project plus the security considerations of hardware vs. software key storage. [Click here for more info.](#)

New GitHub Features Focus on Open Source Community

GitHub is adding new features and improvements to help build and grow open source communities. According to the organization, open source thrives on teamwork, and members need to be able to easily contribute and give back. The new features are centered around contributing, open source licensing, blocking, and privacy.

New contributor badges are designed to welcome new contributors, and it helps to identify the type of users within a project. For instance, maintainers will now be able to see a “first-time contributor” badge to new members. In addition, maintainers will also be able to distinguish lengthy and heated discussions, according to GitHub. And to make open source licensing easier, the organization has introduced a new license picker that provides an overview of the license, the full text, and the ability to customize fields. [To read the full article click here.](#)

Upcoming Webinars

GitHub: Communicating with Remote Teams, August 22nd

In this webcast you will hear from two of GitHub's seasoned managers as they share how they pattern their work to build tools with 60% of our team members being remote. We will cover communication patterns, the tools we use, and the cultural elements that contribute to more successful collaboration across timezones. The webcast will include approximately 40 minutes of tips from our team and 10 minutes of Q&A. [To sign-up click here.](#)

On-Demand Webinar: Automating Change, Request, Flow and Traceability Across the Value Stream

Many organizations are adopting new tools to improve collaboration within individual disciplines (Agile planning, test automation, change management, etc...). Productivity often suffers from disconnected tools and poor visibility.

Change Requests are a key example of a process spanning multiple disciplines. It is essential to automate the flow of Change Requests and establish traceability with affected artifacts such as requirements, tests, and test results.

During this webinar Erik Parow of Tx3 Services and Mara Puisite of Tasktop will demonstrate how to: Connect your Lifecycle, DevOps, and Database tools into a unified software delivery value stream, increase visibility of project status and compliance with cross tool traceability and report and automate the flow and approval of Change Request Change Plans, Implementations, Verifications, and Deployments with Atlassian JIRA, HPE ALM and Tx3 VERA. This Webinar is available on demand. [For more information click here.](#)

On-Demand Webinar: Getting Visual with Value Streams

Integration is at the heart of value stream improvement. In software, your value stream spans different domains and tools, which makes integration unavoidable. You need a seamless flow of information between people and tools to refine your delivery process.

Integration can be complex, but the difficulty is compounded when you cannot see everything that needs to be connected. When you can actually see what's flowing between systems in a simple, intuitive way, you are well on your way to being able to improve your value stream.

In this webinar Tasktop will demonstrate how to create a connected value stream by automating artifact flow across your software development and delivery tools, provide value stream visibility to senior leadership with Tasktop's new Integration Landscape View and easily scale and manage integrations with model-based integration management. [For more information click here.](#)

Excellent Articles You May Have Missed

Five Skills Every DevOps Engineer Must Master

This article appeared in the RCR Wireless News on July 27th. It is worth the read. Demand for DevOps engineers has experienced exponential growth within the last few years. They are essential to ensuring better collaboration between software developers and operations staff for leading-edge businesses. The occupation was ranked third on Indeed's best jobs in the U.S. for 2017 based upon competitive pay, work availability and opportunities for growth. While DevOps is one of many tech trends, it isn't expected to wane anytime soon. Here are the top five skills every DevOps engineer must master in order to succeed. [To read the full article click here.](#)

Don't Be Ageist: In the DevOps Era, Experience Matters

This article appeared in Sys.Con Media on July 30th . The intensifying a bias toward younger workers—or at least the perception that DevOps is welcoming only to the young—is the fact that DevOps and the continuous improvement/continuous delivery (CI/CD) movement are, in many ways, “a manifestation of the ethos of the millennial generation,” says Charles Araujo, principal analyst at Intellyx. “When given the opportunity, millennials are inclined toward short-form, rapid-fire communication, multitasking, and highly iterative interactions.” But forget ... old guys rule. [Read the full article here.](#)

The Cloud and DevOps: The Perfect Marriage

This article appeared in Forbes Magazine technology section on July 26th. Many organizations are using both cloud and DevOps together. Both emerged and matured at roughly the same time, so is it really possible to separate the value of one from the other? How intertwined are the two technologies? [To read the full article click here.](#)

Stumped by DevOps? Experts Share Their Views on How to Do DevOps Right

This article appeared in GeekWire on July 22nd. Back in the day, there were software development teams, and there were operations teams, and they might say hello to each other a few times a year at the company picnic. But that hasn't been the case for a long time.

Now, teams are expected to collaborate more closely to deliver software when it is ready. This is called "DevOps," and while Heptio's Joe Beda is right that the meaning of this term is in the eye of the beholder, it's a set of practices and strategies for increasing the velocity of software development while ensuring reliability and quality.

At the recent GeekWire Cloud Tech Summit, three engineering leaders with serious DevOps cred — Nell Shamrell-Harrington, senior software development engineer at Chef; Avi Cavale, CEO of Shippable; and Mitchell Hashimoto, co-founder and co-CTO of HashiCorp — explained to attendees how companies are employing DevOps inside their organizations, and how to make sure you're not losing anything in the process of speeding up your development cycle. [To read the full article click here.](#)

ReleaseTEAM adds GitLab to their GSA Approved Product and Services Line-Up

On July 14th GitLab announced that ReleaseTEAM, an authorized channel reseller for GitLab since 2015, has added GitLab to their line-up of GSA approved products. GSA Approval is a status used to describe organizations that have been approved to sell to the United States Government through the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA). To become eligible to bid on a GSA schedule, organizations must complete an extensive application process. GSA Approval opens up opportunities for government agencies, including the US Army, Navy, and Air Force to replace their legacy systems with an inexpensive, intuitive and flexible solution that covers the entire software development lifecycle.

"ReleaseTEAM is proud to add GitLab to our line of GSA scheduled products," said Shawn Doyle, CEO of ReleaseTEAM Inc. "GitLab's strengths and the openness of their development model make a great match for ReleaseTEAM's commitment to the DevOps community. I'm glad to have them added to our GSA schedule." [To read the full press release click here.](#)

The Puzzler

The answer to last month's puzzler... Why did the police go to the BBQ? Because they heard it was good for a Steak Out. Our July winner was chosen at random from several correct replies. Bob A. please email puzzler@releaseteam.com for details on how to collect your \$27 gift card!

And now for this month's puzzler:

This morning as he parked in his customer's parking lot, Shawn noticed after a 26 mile drive that his odometer in his truck was a palindrome, 61916 miles. Shawn's drive to the customer is either 26 miles if he takes the direct route or 31 miles if he takes the toll road. How many more miles would Shawn need to drive to reach the next palindrome?

Be sure to submit your answers ASAP to puzzler@releaseteam.com. As always correct responses have the opportunity to receive a \$27 gift card. Good luck and from all of us at ReleaseTEAM we hope you truly enjoy the month of August!

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ReleaseTEAM is a global consulting company and software reseller specializing in DevOps. We partner with clients in the architecture and delivery of DevOps solutions always designing to leverage past technology investments only incorporating new modern tool-sets where needed. We have broad experience in both the Private and Public Sectors and hold a GSA schedule for many of the leading DevOps tools on the market today. Contact us today!

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