# ReleaseTEAM

## December 2014

## Welcome to our December 2014 Newsletter!

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Happy Holidays to all our clients and friends. If there is any downtime in the schedule, we hope that many of you are planning on getting server maintenance done over the holidays. Perhaps you are planning on doing product upgrades that have been put off for the last few months. It's a good time to schedule these when there will be fewer developers on the network in the weeks to come. Or maybe you are thinking of retiring some of that technical debt that has been accumulating.

Once the New Year starts you will probably have a list of things that you did not have time to get done. ReleaseTEAM suggests having a realistic point of view and capture everything that could be considered 'technical debt' starting in 2015 and keep that list up to date every month throughout the year. Only by detailing the potential issues and impacts can you lay out the case for retiring the technical debt and reducing the risks which can greatly impact your entire business plan.

Here are some items to consider when creating this list:
- When is the last time you tried to restore SCM baseline from backup?
- When was the last backup? Where is it? Is there enough memory allocated for a full backup?
- What are the end of support dates for each of your tools used in the software development tool stack?
- What is the current version of each tool and what version are you using?
- Is there a formal SW development process and do the last three developers you hired follow it?
- Who last looked at the architecture of the business critical systems?

SW Architecture is probably the last thing people think about when assessing technical debt; there are so many other obvious problems that it often gets overlooked. Dave Farley's most recent Weblog from November 21, 2014 digs deeper on this and other topics associated to this theme with 'The Reactive Manifesto'.

http://www.davefarley.net/

If you agree with his Manifesto there is an option to sign it at the bottom. When you are done with that, give us a call at ReleaseTEAM and let us help you retire some of your 2014 technical debt and create your list for 2015. We are glad to help you with those upgrades, add new tools and get you started in the New Year with a documented plan for improvements.

# ReleaseTEAM's Spotlight



## Travis Siegfried- IBM Business Partner Technical Leader

Some Technical Leaders have great technical skills; they know the product like the back of their hands and are very confident using them.  Others know enough technically to get by, but are successful because their people skills are outstanding; they are outgoing, friendly, and give off positive energy when they walk in any room.  Very few Technical Leaders have both of these characteristics.  I would like to introduce you to one of these unique people….. Meet Travis Siegfried!  Travis has got to be the friendliest IBM technical guru alive!

He not only always has a smile on his face, but is also very upbeat, always tickled to help, and is very responsive.  There has not been a question or an issue that we have taken to Travis that he either knows the answer right away or quickly does research and promptly gives us an accurate solution.   Travis is extremely ambitious and passionate.   He understands the importance of detail and efficiency in a growing business within a fast-paced environment.

He has over 15 years of detailed knowledge associated with creating and deploying product strategies that enable Fortune 500 corporations to achieve positive return on their capital investments. Travis has been in his current position for 5 years now, managing IBM Business Partners in selling IBM Systems Solutions (software & middleware) by hosting PoCs, PoTs and workshops. He specializes in software change and configuration management, requirements management, defect tracking, security vulnerability scanning, integrated development environments for embedded and information technology systems. Travis utilizes cloud infrastructure and well versed in social media, mobile and emerging technologies.  Prior to his Technical Leader position at IBM Travis spent 4 years as an IT Specialist with IBM within the Wireless and Emerging Technology Application space.

Travis is also currently a part time Professor at St. Petersburg College in the Computer and IT department.  He has been teaching for almost a year and a half now.  His course is an introduction to Operating System Security, allowing students to secure Windows 2000 and Linux operating systems. In his course, the student will acquire knowledge and skills to perform audit assessments and implement enterprise-wide operating systems security.

If you ever get a change to work with Travis do not pass up the opportunity!  Whether it is in a workshop he is hosting, being part of a conference call, participating in a proof of technology event, or a simple 15 minute conversation over a cup of coffee with Travis; you will walk away with more knowledge and a smile on your face!

## ReleaseTEAM's Partner Spotlight - GeoLogics

We are proud to announce our newest partner, GeoLogics. GeoLogics produces mission critical solutions and provides technical support in the areas of research and development, engineering, communications, software, and systems development.

GeoLogics was created to provide first-class specialized R&D and engineering services to companies so they could concentrate in their core business areas. We are excited to have GeoLogics as a partner and look forward to working with them.

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## Denver Atlassian User Group



The Denver Atlassian User Group has been around for a couple years now, and the meetings have always been great. They are put together by Andrew Morris, a local Atlassian guru whose expertise spans half a decade. Andrew has recently found someone to help host alternate AUGs for the north side of Denver, which just so happens to be December's meeting. If you have any Atlassian questions or are just looking to find out more about what these products can do for you, I would suggest stopping by, these are friendly people.

When:  December 10th Wednesday
      6:00pm
Where:  ProKarma in, CO.
      5670 Greenwood Plaza Blvd, Suite 100W
      Greenwood Village, CO

RSVP and more info right here.

## IBM Launches Cloud-Based DevOps Package

New cloud-based DevOps services, software and infrastructure from IBM is designed to help organizations develop and deliver quality software faster. IBM's new DevOps Innovation Services help organizations assess and benchmark their readiness for DevOps and chart a path forward, addressing typical bottlenecks in key phases of software delivery, including development, testing, release and deployment and monitoring.

"Software success is increasingly indistinguishable from business success," said Kristof Kloeckner, general manager of IBM's Rational Software Group. "IBM is helping clients harness the collaborative power of the cloud to deliver business outcomes that can compete on the highest levels of agility, speed and collaboration - regardless of the current size or complexity of the organization."

The hybrid cloud services combine IBM's industry expertise from hundreds of organizational change and application development projects with Bluemix, IBM's open cloud platform-as-a-service. They are based upon SoftLayer, IBM's cloud infrastructure platform.

Read the rest of the article here

## What makes Atlassian Australia's best workplace?

Atlassian, recently awarded Australia's best workplace, has embarked on a hiring road trip around the country in a bid to further bolster the appeal of its world-beating workforce.

Oft lauded as Australia's start-up poster child, Atlassian has built a name for itself delivering what some of its employees describe as 'lustful' software development products - HipChat, JIRA, Confluence and Bitbucket -  and backing it up with a culture fostered around its five core values.

The values - 'Open Company, No BS', 'Build with Heart and Balance', 'Don't #@!% the Customer', 'Play, as a Team', and 'Be the Change You Seek' - led BRW to name it Australia's best place to work after a survey of more than 28,000 workers.

Business Spectator visited the company's 'sold out' Melbourne pop-up, held in a Richmond restaurant, to find out what it takes to be labelled Australia's best workplace;  and why the company would decide to drum up interest through a nationwide pop-up tour when things have never been better.

Click here to read the rest of this article

## The Puzzler

The winner of November's puzzler was Jeff N.! Email us at [puzzler@releaseteam.com](mailto:puzzler@releaseteam.com) and let us know where to send your $27 gift card!

Here is last month's question:

Shawn is on a dangerous adventure in Minnesota. Suddenly an extremely poisonous snake bites him. Luckily, he has his medicines with him against this deadly snake poison: two bottles, labeled A and B, containing three pills each. Exactly three times, with an interval of 2 hours, he needs to swallow simultaneously both a pill A and a pill B. In a rush, he takes a pill from bottle A and then shakes a pill from bottle B with it... However, unfortunately two pills B fall from the bottle and they look completely identical to pill A. He cannot tell which pill was A, and which two are B pills... Shawn is desperate: if he does not take the pills exactly as prescribed, it will be fatal.

How can Shawn be sure to take the right pills?

**Solution:**

There are a few solutions, but they all involve cutting the pills in half. If he cuts all the pills in his hand in half, and separate the halves into two piles. Each pile will have half an A pill and 1 hole B pill. Then take another A pill, cut it in half, add each half to each pile. Take the first pile as the first dose, second pile as second dose, and the remaining pills as a normal third dose.

**Now for this month's puzzler:**

Shawn discovers a long-forgotten bag of Reese's Peanut Butter Cups®, with a note which reads, "The Peanut Butter Cups must be divided thusly: 1/2 for the finder, 1/4 for the next person, 1/8 for the person after that, and 1/16 for the last person. The candy must not be cut into pieces and all of it must be distributed." Coincidentally, Sarah, John, and Heather were all in the room when the bag of candy was discovered.

There are 23 PB Cups in the bag, and after standing around for several minutes not being able to figure out how to divide the candy, Shawn prepares to eat the entire bag himself. Before he gets a chance to, Mindy arrives and stops him. After reading the note, she figures out a solution and leaves the room. When she returns, they are able to divvy up the candy according to the note.

**What was Mindy's solution?**

Send us in your answers and we will randomly pick a winner from all the correct answers to win a $27 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](mailto:puzzler@releaseteam.com).