ReleaseTEAM

January 2015

IBM Technotes

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Welcome to our January 2015 Newsletter!

Now that 2015 has begun we need to ask ourselves what is going to get better this year and how are we going to help to make that happen? This could be a personal goal such as going to the gym more often, or eating less. These goals are great but without some form of metric and baseline they are just goals. Continued measured success is really the most important part of having a goal. If you start the year at 285lbs and end at 280lbs was that really success?

If your goal is to improve your team's process then ReleaseTEAM suggests you give us a call to help kick-start the DevOps movement at your company. Sure there are tons of companies proselytizing their own version of DevOps to fit their product set. Of course this requires massive changes on many parts of your company's release, test and deploy teams. In the long run you hope to improve your IT performance and business performance. The metrics are really the most important part after you set your goals for the year.

Well it occurred to us that another interesting metric might be to learn how many companies did change and how well they did at it in 2014. To learn more about this try the link below to an article on 'The 2014 State of DevOps Report".

The 2014 State of DevOps Report

You can drill into this article and download the entire 31 page report at no cost if you are willing to give up some personal information. The article calls out some high level bullet points:

- Trunk-based development, continuous integration, and automated testing measurably improve both IT performance and organizational performance.

- Having a high-trust culture has a strong impact on both IT performance and organizational performance.

- Using external change approval processes such as change advisory board, as opposed to peer-based code review techniques, significantly impacts throughput while doing almost nothing to improve stability.

- Job satisfaction is the biggest predictor of organizational performance, and using DevOps practices are good predictors of job satisfaction.

Make sure to read page 7 on 'Who Took the Survey'. More than 9,200 people from 110 countries and a wide range of industries participated in the survey. When you are done give ReleaseTEAM a call to see how we can help you implement and measure your success!

ReleaseTEAM's Spotlight

IBM InterConnect2015

For this month's spotlight we turn our attention away from highlighting the wonderful people we work with to touch on an upcoming event.

Some of you may have heard that IBM has combined their 3 main conferences, Impact, Innovate, and Pulse into one mega conference, Interconnect. Focusing on Mobile, Cloud, DevOps, and Security the conference will be held February 22nd to 26th in Las Vegas. IBM is billing it as the most comprehensive and collaborative event ever with over 1,500 technical sessions, 42 tracks, and 8 steams. The MGM Grand and Mandalay Bay Hotels & Casinos will be the main location for the conference.

Keynote speakers and talks include 3 members from Shark Tank, The Future of Cloud, Smarter Process, Building the Next Generation of Apps with IBM Watson, A New Way to Innovate with DevOps and Continuous Engineering and Security for a New Era of Computing. Additionally, once you are done with the business discussions, everyone's favorite 70's rockers, Aerosmith, will hit the stage on Wednesday night at the MGM Grand Arena.

Among the eight streams topics include, Application Infrastructure and Integration, Asset Management and Internet of Things, Business Process and Decision Management, and Cloud Infrastructure and IT Optimization. Tracks include sessions on Rapid Cloud Application Platform, Transforming Software and Product Innovation, Empowering Knowledge Workers, Application Infrastructure, and Storage and Data Protection.

To register for the conference head over to IBM.com and while you are there look for ReleaseTEAM!

Speaker: Shawn Doyle

Topic: IBM Rational Open Forum

When: January 29th Thursday
6:00pm – 9:00pm

Where:
Northglenn Recreation Center - Mountain View Room
11801 Community Center Drive
Northglenn CO, 80233

[RSVP and more info right here.](#)

ReleaseTEAM's Partner Spotlight - Perforce

DevOps in Practice at Intuit

By Jonathan Thorpe, Technical Marketing Manager, Perforce Software

With DevOps officially turning five years old last October, there has been a lot of discussion about the best strategies for adopting the practice. A key element of successful DevOps and Continuous Delivery (CD) is keeping all enterprise assets in one repository that serves as the "single source of truth."

While "assets" usually refers to source code, multimedia files, documents and other digital components of a product, in DevOps and CD it also refers to artifacts from the development environments themselves. This is commonly referred to as Infrastructure as Code (IaC). Intuit, a longtime Perforce customer, [recently discussed](#) how they use IaC in their journey towards Continuous Delivery and the importance of using version control to get there.

[Gene Kim](#), a leading authority on DevOps, also [wrote](#) about the importance of version control, arguing that it's, in fact, more important to Ops than to Dev. Gene references the [2014 State of DevOps report by PuppetLabs](#) where research showed that version controlling the production environment was a key predictor of performance—even more so than version controlling code.
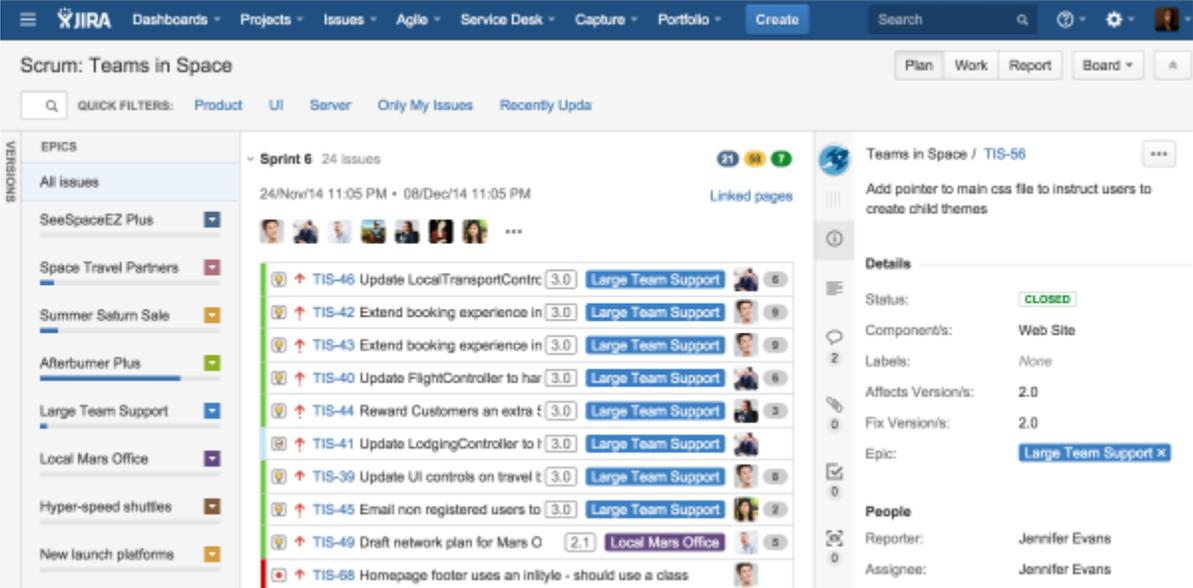
If you're embarking on a journey to Continuous Delivery or DevOps, see what Intuit and Gene Kim have to say first. Starting on the right path from day one will likely save you time and energy.

Sprint planning at Atlassian: How we do it

Here is an excerpt from a very extensive blog post by Atlassian on how they do their sprints:

Step 1: Check your roadmaps before you meet

Time passes faster than we think. So it's a good idea to review your project's roadmap during the first two weeks of the New Year. The roadmap sets the context for two important agile concepts: epics and versions, which provide the backbone for agile program planning and help track delivery of longer-term work. Make sure the roadmap is current, visible to the whole team, and that epics and versions are correctly listed inside of JIRA before your sprint planning meeting.

Step 2: The meeting before the meeting

Sprint planning involves two key tasks: grooming the backlog and deciding which work to complete in the upcoming sprint. At Atlassian, we've found that backlog grooming is best done in a separate meeting with the product owner and scrum master before the actual sprint planning. We make this pre-meeting optional for the full development team.

[Click here for the full article that includes more pictures!](#)

The Puzzler

The winner of December's puzzler was Bob R.! Email us at puzzler@releaseteam.com and let us know where to send your $27 gift card!

Here is last month's question:

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?

Solution:

There are multiple solutions, but they all involve Mindy coming back and adding new Peanut Butter Cups to the total, allowing them to be divided equally. The simplest of these solutions is Mindy adding 9 PBC's, bringing the total to 32. They can thus be divided to 16, 8, 4, and 2.

Now for this month's puzzler:

What is a word made up of 4 letters yet is also made up of 3. Although is written with 8 letters, and then with 4. Rarely consists of 6, and never is written with 5. **How is this true?**

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.