ReleaseTEAM

January 2017

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Welcome to our January Newsletter

Happy New Year! January is a time for calendaring, goal setting and making resolutions. As you begin to calendar the New Year we hope you will join us at ChefConf in May in Austin, Texas and GitHub Universe in October. In fact right now you can receive bargain $199 early bird tickets to GitHub Universe.

Without fail DevOps goal setting and resolutions involve proactively attacking all-things efficiency improvement. In this newsletter you will find a link to an article on 5 ways to work better with JIRA mobile and an article on how the ElectricAccelerator Insight feature can reduce your build times from one hour to under three minutes even as the build grows … how about that resolution attack plan!

In addition to calendaring and resolutions insight we are giving you data-driven ammunition as you approach your budget justification meetings for improved Requirements and Validation management as well as news from several of our professional partners.

Finally, we have included a link for you to sharpen your skills with free 30-minute online sessions from the recent Sonatype Global DevOps Conference. As we begin the New Year we at ReleaseTEAM are thankful for all our friends and partners in the DevOps community. We are looking forward to accomplishing great things together in 2017!

GitHub Universe $199 Early Bird Tickets

As you begin to plan for the New Year make sure to mark your calendars for GitHub Universe on October 10-12, 2017 at Pier 70 in San Francisco. GitHub just released a limited amount of super early bird tickets at the bargain price of $199 USD. There are only 100 tickets available so be sure to snag yours quick before they run out at **https://github.com/blog/2296-save-the-date-github-universe-2017**

GitHub Universe is a three-day must attend event for people making the future of software. You will immerse yourself in creativity and curiosity with the largest software community in the world. The event is packed with advanced training, deep dives on open source projects, keynotes from industry experts, and a look into successful software teams. You can check out the videos from 2016 at githubuniverse.com.

New Year's Resolution: Reduce Build Times from 1 Hour to Under Three Minutes Using the the ElectricAccelerator Insight Feature

As you begin the New Year attacking efficiency improvement resolutions we recommend you put ElectricAccelerator with Insight on your short list … specifically, the Insight feature. This feature will let you know exactly where you're going with your builds and what time you'll get there. You can **predict *and even control* the amount of time a build will take.**

Insight users are currently reducing their build times from 1 hour to under three minutes using Insight feature and ensuring a sub-3 minute time is maintained even as the build grows. Your team's ping pong skills may suffer, but your customers and investors will absolutely appreciate the time savings.

In the following link ElectricAccelerator users discuss how they use the **Insight** feature to achieve these remarkable efficiencies. There data is worth exploration. And here's where we insert the proviso that "your mileage may vary," but this example is typical of what customers report when they use the ElectricAccelerator Insight feature. The following link is definitely worth the read. **http://electric-cloud.com/blog/2016/12/hour-3-minutes-yes-really/**

Justification for Well Managed Requirements and Validation: The Key to Product Success

As you approach budget justification meetings regarding requirements and validation management this article by Michelle Boucher at PTC is an excellent data driven summary of why investments in this area pay off exponentially.

Requirements and validation engineering are essential to achieving critical product differentiation. Today the most common requirements management tools are Excel and Word. They work well for defining requirements, but often fall short when managing requirements.

In the following link Boucher explores why requirements management is so difficult and why it is so essential. She illustrates with the following analogy … I'm reminded of the Seinfeld episode when Jerry reserves a rental car, but then finds there are no more cars. He responds, "You see, you know how to take the reservation, you just don't know how to hold the reservation. And that's really the most important part of the reservation: the holding. Anybody can just take them." Like holding a reservation, it's really the management of requirements that's the most important part. It's key to developing products customers want.

Boucher explores sources of requirements and validation management complexity, the business costs of failure to manage this complexity, and she builds a strong case that investments in requirements and validation management have huge payoffs including speed to market, product quality improvements and product competitive advantages. Again, it is a great data driven article as you approach your budget justification meetings for improved Requirements and Validation management.
http://www.ptc.com/integrity-blog/successful-products-start-with-requirements-and-validation

Looking For Insight on Putting the Customer Experience First? Plan to Attend ChefConf May 22 – 24 in Austin, Texas

Following is a link to an excellent article by Lucas Welch, Communications Manager for Chef. In this article he discusses how successful companies focus on the customer experience.

In order to provide the fastest, most enjoyable experience for customers, companies need back-end systems, platforms, and tools that provide a high degree of stability and enable rapid customer engagement. No matter what industry you're in what matters is the final product or service the customer sees and how the customer interacts with your company. Your whole team needs to be working toward this paramount consumer interaction objective.

Adam Mikeal, IT Director at Texas A&M, agrees. "If individual teams define success as a smaller component [rather than the final product or service], they are looking at something too small. They have to be looking at the final product, and that creates a sense of shared responsibility between teams."

And that's why customer-centric organizations use DevOps. "The root of DevOps is open, honest communication," said Aaron Blythe, Senior Automation and Systems Engineer, Hearst Business Media. "You want to make sure you have something your market actually wants."

Looking for more insight on becoming a customer-centric organization? Plan now to join us at at ChefConf May 22 – 24 in Austin, Texas.
https://blog.chef.io/2016/12/06/tis-the-season-for-putting-customers-first/

Now Available: Free 30 Minute Online Sessions from the Sonatype Global DevOps Conference

One of the best ways to learn about DevOps is to hear from the experiences of others who are in the trenches. Recently Sonatype hosted the first truly global live online DevOps conference spanning 15 time zones. Over 13,500 practitioners from around the world gathered to learn from their industry peers. The three tracks included modern infrastructure, automated security and CI/CD.

Over 57 practitioner led sessions (30-minutes each) are now posted online and are free to watch including the following noteworthy presentations …

Fannie Mae: Barry Snyder, Senior Manager of DevOps at Fannie Mae shared his real world journey through his enterprise transformation. Fannie Mae transformed the way in which they delivered software. Their software deploys increased from 1,200/month to 15,000/month. At the same time their productivity increased by 28% while reducing costs by 30%. How did they do it?

Liberty Mutual: Eddie Webb, Director of Software Delivery Platforms at Liberty Mutual shared how they evolved their organization, tool chain, and processes to go from 20% of builds being deployed to 60% over the past 18 months. He described how they documented their value delivery chain and identified all of their choke points in the continuous delivery process that would need to be automated in order to achieve their new velocity and quality targets. **http://blog.sonatype.com/confessions-from-fannie-mae-liberty-mutual-and-capital-one**

Again, one of the best ways to learn about DevOps is to hear the experiences of others in the trenches. Take 30 minutes this morning, at lunch, or at home this evening to watch your first online session with All Day DevOps on-demand.

Perforce Acquires Seapine Software

On December 8th 2016 Perforce CEO Janet Dryer announced an addition to the Perforce portfolio… the best-in-class ALM solution from Seapine Software.

"The depth and knowledge of the Seapine team is unmatched," said Dryer. "Their expertise in ALM development pipelines – adding efficiency, traceability, and predictability at every stage – is a tremendous asset. This acquisition complements the existing Perforce solution set with additional tools to improve and accelerate the development process."

Seapine's excellence has long been known in many industries. One Seapine customer, from a leading provider of security product solutions, calls Seapine's ALM "Rock solid. No crashes and no lost data." Another user in banking efficiency solutions added "the integration of system components is seamless, and is critical to the accuracy of our trace metrics and audit reporting."

While we worked with Seapine during the lead-up to our agreement, it was energizing to see how closely our values align. Both organizations strive to deliver better products each and every day, and that effort will only increase now that Perforce and Seapine are one.

I am excited to help guide this new transition, along with former Seapine CEO turned Perforce CTO for ALM Solutions Rick Riccetti, and also Perforce CPO Tim Russell. We look forward to being a part of our customers' most ambitious and innovative projects in the years to come.

https://www.perforce.com/blog/161208/letter-ceo-janet-dryer

5 ways to work better with JIRA mobile

As we begin a New Year without fail we all want to improve our efficiencies. Below is a link to a terrific article by Rutger Coolen, Principal Product Manager at JIRA on ways to work better with JIRA mobile. If you're a JIRA Software or JIRA Core user with a site hosted in the Cloud, you are probably already familiar with the JIRA Cloud apps for iPhone and Android. If you're not we hope to encourage you to join the growing number of JIRA mobile users. You can get the apps here: atlassian.app.link/jira

The last few months have seen rapid development, including the addition of boards and edit issue support. The link at the end of this article shows you how to make the most of the newest mobile features including several fast shortcuts.

In addition, we know that notifications from JIRA can be a bit overwhelming sometimes. With JIRA mobile, they have now made it easier to "unwatch" non-relevant issues giving you more control over notifications. Similarly, you can now fine-tune what you get notified about in the app's settings menu.

Kanban and Scrum boards are among the most popular of the new mobile app features because they help managers and product owners stay up to date with how their team is progressing – from anywhere. When you're working on a task, you can easily progress it by opening it and tapping the "transition" button.

Emails now open straight in the app. Most of us travel with our office in our pocket. So being able to open up JIRA links from email notifications in the JIRA app vastly improves the "work away from work" experience.

And finally, search is a frequently-used function. The search function is now easily accessible from every part of the app. For iPhone users, you can even use the in-built "Spotlight" search to find your issues or you can use JIRA's query language (JQL) to find the issues you want.

As we begin a New Year we all want to improve our efficiencies. We highly recommend that you read the following link regarding ways to work better wit/h JIRA mobile. Happy New Year!

http://blogs.atlassian.com/2016/12/5-ways-to-work-better-with-jira-mobile

GitLab 8.14.5, 8.13.10, and 8.12.13 Released

On December 14th GitLab released versions 8.14.5, 8.13.10, and 8.12.13 for GitLab Community Edition (CE) and Enterprise Edition (EE). These versions contain important security fixes, and we recommend that all affected GitLab installations be upgraded to one of these versions.

These versions do include a single migration, and will require brief downtime of typically less than one minute. Please be aware that by default the Omnibus packages will stop, run migrations, and start again, no matter how "big" or "small" the upgrade is. This behavior can be changed by adding a /etc/gitlab/skip-auto-migrations file.

For more details please refer to the following link.
https://about.gitlab.com/2016/12/14/gitlab-8-dot-14-dot-5-released/

The Puzzler

Congratulations to Phillip S., for winning the December Puzzler contest! Phillip will receive a $27 gift card for his cunning. Email puzzler@releaseteam.com to claim your $27 gift card!

And now for the January Puzzler …

What is the only type of cheese made backwards?

Last month's puzzler was, how did they know who the culprit was?

No one checks the mail on Sunday, so it had to have been Kevin.

Please send your answer to puzzler@releaseteam.com and we will randomly pick a winner from all the correct answers. The winner will receive a $27 gift card. If you have a brilliant puzzler recommendation we would love to use it. Please send your recommendations to the above email address.