ReleaseTEAM

March 2014

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Welcome to our March 2014 Newsletter!

Over the last two months we have introduced and expanded on IBM Rational's automation solution for Service Virtualization. It warrants repeating the Capers-Jones research that found poor software quality has become one of the most expensive topics in human history – over $500 billion USD per year worldwide.

Many companies are cutting software costs in a myopic way to achieve profitability. This will probably backfire in the future due to poor software quality. The solution will more than likely come by investing in better software development tools and improving development and deployment processes.

The organizations that have focused on the basics of Software Configuration Management, Requirements Management, testing early and testing often have already reaped the benefit of higher software quality. The most successful teams are working on improving the development process via integrated tool sets while creating an environment that fosters a better relationship between Software Development and Operations.

The right software development tools and process improvements need to be considered with a return on investment (ROI) in mind but don't forget about managing risk! If you have not read this book yet please find the time to get a hard copy of your own. It is short, concise and full of great ideas for any project manager or software sales person.

http://www.amazon.com/The-Economics-Iterative-Software-Development/dp/0321509358

Next month we will show case the Dev/Ops solutions offered by many vendors and continue our emphasis on the economics of software development tools and processes.

ReleaseTEAM's Spotlight

Howie Bernstein – IBM Rational Product Manager – ClearCase, ClearQuest and Jazz Integrations

Howie Bernstein

In this month's Spotlight ReleaseTEAM would like to zoom in on the man that manages the products our original business was built around. ClearCase & ClearQuest are still used on some of the largest software development programs in the world today. Howie Bernstein is IBM Rational's Product Manager for ClearCase, ClearQuest and Jazz Integrations. He is the go too guy for questions on available resources and direction of these products. ReleaseTEAM regularly works with Howie & our customers when they ask for help understanding the future roadmap for ClearCase/ClearQuest vs Rational Team Concert. Howie's quote below was in response to question if RTC replaces CC/CQ.

"It would be a mistake to think of RTC as a replacement for ClearCase and ClearQuest. It would depend entirely on what features of ClearCase and ClearQuest your organization depends on. For organizations that make little use in ClearCase of dynamic views, process triggers, build auditing (and others) then perhaps switching to RTC SCM would be a reasonable consideration. The same can be said for ClearQuest. If your organization takes advantage of the advanced customization features of ClearQuest and depends on those features to execute your custom workflow, then RTC might not be a good solution for you."

IBM Cloud Strategy Expands Global Presence

IBM announced a new pay-as-you-go cloud storage model to help enterprises more easily and efficiently manage their swelling data volumes and adopt cloud storage solutions.

The new IBM Advanced System Placement program for clients is a pay-as-you-go program that lets organizations purchase IBM XIV storage systems for only a fraction of the price upon installation. Only when the system reaches a predetermined capacity threshold will the client be charged for the full balance of the price. At that time, a second unit will be delivered for only $1. The cycle continues and clients only pay for the full balance of subsequent systems when they reach the threshold, and another system is delivered for an additional $1.

[See the rest here.](#)

PERFORCE

Perforce and ReleaseTEAM

Now that the ink has dried on our partner agreement, we at Perforce are very excited to begin our work in earnest with ReleaseTEAM. While we have many sales partners across Europe and Asia Pacific, ReleaseTEAM is our first sales partner in the United States. Perforce works very closely with industry partners to bring our suite of version management and collaboration solutions to new markets and geographies and to lend their expertise to Perforce deployments. Our work with ReleaseTEAM is an excellent example of partnership in action, as their expertise with ClearCase and other version management platforms gives them a clear picture of when the inherent advantages of Perforce will be most beneficial to our shared customers.

ReleaseTEAM at the Perforce Annual Partner Summit

The week of March 3, we will host select members of ReleaseTEAM at our annual Partner Summit. This year's event is in Malta, where we'll have 3 days of interactive training sessions on technology transfer, consulting best practices, sales and marketing strategies and more.

3 hot cloud concepts that can benefit all of IT

The term "cloud" has different meanings to different people. It's so broadly defined with so many meanings that it really does not mean much at all.

However, several cloud concepts are gaining more interest, whether in cloud contexts or not. By focusing on these concepts, rather than the more general notion of cloud computing, you can get more value in your organization's technology, cloud and otherwise. Three concepts in particular stand out: devops, management and governance, and data analytics.

Devops (development and operations) is a software development process and sets of technology that provide an agile relationship between development and IT operations. The objective of devops is to change and improve the relationship by advocating better communication and collaboration between the two organizations.

[Click here for the entire article.](#)

Perforce Shares Best Practices for Continuous Delivery

As big data analytics pushes deeper into cognitive computing, it needs to bring the semantic Web into the heart of this new age

ALAMEDA, CA--(Marketwired - Feb 25, 2014) - Perforce Software today recommended best practices for Continuous Delivery, a software development and release methodology spreading rapidly across a wide range of industries and end products. Based on insights gained from serving as the versioning platform for hundreds of organizations that already migrated to Continuous Delivery, Perforce shared how companies can move to faster release cadences through more automated processes.

Continuous Delivery enables businesses to provide better products faster by allowing software to be released into production at any time. It centers on building a development pipeline where early feedback, automated build and test, and incremental deployments can dramatically speed up product and application release cycles. Many businesses are embracing this as a competitive advantage that allows them to accelerate time to market without sacrificing quality.

"Companies can no longer afford to wait until the end of long development and release cycles to find out if they're keeping up with market demands," said Christopher Seiwald, founder and CEO, Perforce Software. "Many of our customers were early to recognize this shift in the marketplace and they trusted Perforce to serve as their versioning platform and a single source of truth for all their assets -- two crucial components to practicing Continuous Delivery."

Key insights into Continuous Delivery best practices include:

1. Track Every Change: Recording every change, event and transaction is hugely valuable in situations where a rollback to a previous version is required. Altering history should be prohibited, especially when compliance and industry regulations demand stringent recordkeeping.

2. Think beyond Code: Continuous Delivery is focused on more than just code. Every element of a product needs to be consistently versioned from development to deployment, including artwork and other binary files, chip architectures, CAD designs, documentation, configuration scripts, and more.

3. Put It All in One Place: Instead of maintaining silos of code and assets, and project-specific branches, implement a "single source of truth" for the entire production environment. If assets and artifacts are distributed in multiple locations and multiple stores, there is a risk of introducing new errors and failing to meet delivery deadlines. A unified repository can hold all of a company's assets and support virtually unlimited scaling.

Click here for the rest of the article and a download of the Best Practices Report

The Puzzler

The winner of February's puzzler was Paul J.! Congratulations and enjoy your gift card! Here is last month's question:

ReleaseTEAM is giving all of its employees Valentine's Day candy! Unfortunately, we ordered the candy in bulk and now have to divide the candy evenly between employees. If we give each employee 4 pieces of candy, we will have 55 pieces left over, but if we give them each 9 pieces, we will be short 55 pieces. **How many employees are getting candy and how many pieces of candy are there total?**

Solution: There are 22 employees and 143 pieces of candy. You can get this answer with some algebra.

Now for this month's puzzler:

Shawn is leaving for Malta for the Perforce Business Partner Summit. He leaves Denver for a layover in London, and it takes the plane 10 hours to get there. London is 5 hours ahead of Denver. If the trip to London to Malta takes 3 hours, and Malta is 1 hour ahead of London, **what time would they have to leave Denver to get to Malta at 9:00 AM on the following day?**

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 info@releaseteam.com.