ReleaseTEAM

March 2017

Welcome to our March Newsletter

March is the time for spring cleaning, important tune-ups and other essential maintenance to improve efficiencies. The DevOps world is no different. This past month three of our partner vendors have introduced important game changing functionalities, tested alternative ways to organize teams (specifically for problem solving) and published a Global Developer Survey filled with insightful information. In this newsletter you can read about all of the above

In addition, ReleaseTEAM is thrilled to announce their new partnership with QASymphony. This new partnership will allow QASymphony to support ReleaseTEAM's customers who are looking for enterprise testing capabilities to complement their Atlassian JIRA efforts. It is another important component that makes ReleaseTEAM your go to resource for facilitating important efficiencies and successful outcomes.

And finally we would like to bring to your attention a quick, visual presentation by Brandon Vigliarolo. In this presentation he discusses the 10 most useful JIRA plugins that are sure to add much-desired features to any JIRA setup. It is solid information for high impact improvement.

As always we at ReleaseTEAM are thankful for your partnership in our DevOps community. We hope you enjoy the month of March. If we can help you on your journey to fine tuning your processes and efficiencies please reach out. We love facilitating your success!

ReleaseTEAM Announces Their New Partnership with QASymphony

We at ReleaseTEAM are thrilled to announce our new partnership with QASymphony headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia. QASymphony is a leading agile software company that provides enterprise test case management and exploratory testing solutions for development and QA teams. QASymphony's qTest Platform helps companies create better software by improving speed, efficiency, collaboration and analysis during the testing process.

This new partnership will allow QASymphony to support ReleaseTEAM's customers who are looking for enterprise testing capabilities to complement their Atlassian JIRA efforts. Combined with JIRA, the qTest platform brings about the most robust testing solution for QA teams.

Many enterprises that are using excel spreadsheets, limited plugins, or legacy tools such as HP Quality Center are switching to the qTest platform for a fully integrated and easy to use product. In alignment with ReleaseTEAM's strategy, QASymphony recently released qTest Pulse, a DevOps oriented product for teams releasing software daily with a continuous delivery mindset.

The company has over 500 customers across 20 countries including Salesforce, Barclays, Adobe, Samsung, Verizon and Office Depot. In addition, QASymphony was recently selected by Gartner as a "Cool Vendor in Application Development" and by Entrepreneur Magazine as one of the "Best Entrepreneurial Companies in America." To learn more about QASymphony visit www.qasymphony.com or on Twitter at @QASymphony.

Again we are thrilled to offer enterprise testing capabilities for our Atlassian JIRA clients. It is another important component that makes ReleaseTEAM your go to resource for facilitating important efficiencies and successful outcomes.

Eliminate Blind Spots and Improve Problem Solving:
Organize Your Experts into Ad Hoc Teams

Many engineering organizations sort developers into teams like application engineering, platform engineering, web development, systems, and quality. Structuring organizations in this way can leave blind spots that exclude the people best qualified to help solve a given problem. To address these blind spots GitHub has tested several alternative ways to organize teams by expertise, rather than by application. GitHub refers to these highly specialized groups as ad hoc teams.

The essence of effective ad hoc teams is …

- A group of people with similar skills sets and interests.

- An opt-in social contract to respond to problems in a given domain when called upon.

- The team becomes a vehicle to facilitate developer capability and knowledge growth.

- It is a team created without administrative intervention.

- The team has a variable duration: formed for only a one-time problem or long-term.

When a problem is overwhelming to the team primarily responsible for a solution they are often left with few options for help. It is rare for a problem to be unique to just one application team. In addition, members of several other teams may be better qualified to solve a given problem. An ad hoc team allows you to organize specialist across formal teams into a highly specialized problem solving force.

Imagine a scenario where a security vulnerability in a JavaScript application has opened up your SQL database to malicious actors. Who would you call for help? While the application may belong to a specific project team, high profile issues like these are everyone's problem. You can immediately get more eyes on the issue by @mentioning teams that might be able to help. This may include your JavaScript developers, SQL experts, and the security team.

What are the benefits?

•   Better support teams with escalation paths for common engineering issues.
•   Problems are resolved faster by quickly involving the experts.
•   There is no need to wait until tomorrow's stand-up meeting.
•   You uncover underutilized known and unknown talents.
•   You quickly get fresh perspectives, you challenge assumptions, and you thwart groupthink.
•   You share knowledge when problem domain experts see an issue differently than application experts.

We encourage you to explore and consider the important problem solving efficiencies of ad hoc teams that GitHub has tested. https://github.com/blog/2316-organize-your-experts-with-ad-hoc-teams

GitHub Launches Open Source Guides: Easily Learn How to both Run and Contribute to Open Source

Participating in open source can be incredibly rewarding, but it's not always obvious how to make your first contribution, start a new project or build an active community. In late February GitHub announced new Open Source Guides that will make your knowledge journey easier.

Open Source Guides are resources for individuals, communities and companies who want to learn how to run and contribute to open source. They are a series of short, approachable guides to help you participate more effectively in open source. Perhaps you need help finding users for your project, making your first contribution, managing large open source communities or improving the workflow of your project. These new Open Source Guides are now your most effective starting point in your knowledge journey.

These guides aim to reflect the voice of the community and their years of wisdom and practice. GitHub has focused on the topics that they have heard about most and curated stories from open source contributors across the web. We at ReleaseTEAM cannot say enough good things about this new resource. We highly recommend it. https://github.com/blog/2318-announcing-open-source-guides

You Can Now Create and Collaborate on a Static Website through GitLab Pages Community Edition

On February 22nd GitLab released the much anticipated version GitLab 8.17 with GitLab Pages in GitLab CE and Squash on Merge. Now anyone can easily create and collaborate on a static website through GitLab Pages via the GitLab Community Edition.

For many years content management systems (CMS) have been used to manage simple websites. The advent of static sites now allows organizations to no longer worry about securing, updating and maintaining an underlying CMS. Static websites are both fast and powerful. They are the next big thing in publishing to the internet.

Because static websites are much faster than their dynamic counterparts (CMS), they are great for high volume public marketing and documentation sites or even as a way to easily visualize data from your continuous integration suite. But, hardcoded static websites take a long time to setup and maintain for everyone but the invested web developer.

Static Site Generators are the best solution to this problem. GitLab Pages now allows you to host static websites straight from GitLab, with any Static Site Generator. Previously this functionality was only available on GitLab.com and GitLab Enterprise Edition. After receiving over 100 votes GitLab decided to move GitLab Pages to GitLab Community Edition.

In addition to moving Pages to CE, GitLab 8.17 has other important enhancements including improvements to Issue Boards, an added an audit user role, an added ability to squash commits on merge and much more! We invite you to explore the following link that includes all improvement details.
https://about.gitlab.com/2017/02/22/gitlab-8-17-released/

This is great news. If you or your organization has any questions regarding GitLab 8.17 improvements please know ReleaseTEAM is your go to expert resource on all things GitLab. We are happy to help you achieve success!

77% of Developers Say
Continuous Integration is Integral to their Everyday Work

We want to make you aware of an exceptional Global Developer Survey on Continuous Integration as well as an excellent accompanying article written by Rebecca Dodd.

Continuous Integration – the practice that developers use to detect, locate and fix errors quickly by integrating their code frequently into a shared repository – is becoming a non-negotiable aspect of everyday work. (CI) automates testing of new code, sparing developers the time-consuming task of checking it manually. An ever increasing number of companies are using this approach. Therefore, CI is essential to both staying competitive and retaining your talent.

GitLab's Global Developer Surveyt was launched last year to explore the ways in which developers work is changing and how you as a business can adapt to get the best out of your development team. One of the key takeaways from the survey is that Continuous Integration now plays a crucial part in daily work. It has become essential to the process of quickly delivering great features because CI frees up time that would otherwise be spent on finding and fixing errors, and CI decreases the chance of shipping code that isn't ready.

Bottom line: CI is used by the great majority of all developers and it makes the best use of your team's time. We strongly encourage you to explore the follow link.
https://about.gitlab.com/2017/02/22/ci-integral-to-everyday-work/

10 JIRA Plugins That Are Sure to Enhance Any JIRA Setup

Software suites like JIRA are complicated, and each company needs it to do something just a little bit different. Our partner company Atlassian knows this, which is why JIRA is relatively barebones: They expect you to supplement it with some of the hundreds of plugins available in the Atlassian Marketplace.

We encourage you to explore this quick, visual presentation by Brandon Vigliarolo. In this presentation he discusses the 10 most useful JIRA plugins that are sure to add much-desired features to any JIRA setup. It is solid information for high-result efficiencies.

 http://www.techrepublic.com/pictures/gallery-10-jira-plugins-to-make-software-development-even-more-agile/

The Puzzler

I'm going to have to give this one to Doug Blondin. Doug will receive a $27 gift card for his extensive knowledge of NFL rules. Email puzzler@releaseteam.com to claim your $27 gift card!

And now for the March Puzzler …

Wednesday, Shawn and Karl went to a restaurant and ate dinner. When they were done they paid for the food and left. But Shawn and Karl didn't pay for the food. Who did?

Last month's puzzler was, "Ignoring order, how many different ways are there for an American football team to score 10 points and what are they?

I'll copy some of Doug's explanation here, but the answer is 49 according to him. The answer I had when I found this puzzler was 5, but Doug found an obscure rule, and even listed the Section and Article number of the NFL Rulebook. "If the try results in what would ordinarily be a safety against either team, one point is awarded to the opponent." Section 3, Article 2c of the 2016 NFL rulebook. Using this rule you can achieve 49 ways of getting 10 points, although it would be a crazy thing to see happen.

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.