



ReleaseTEAM

May 2016



Welcome to our May 2016 Newsletter!

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IBM Technotes



To see the latest IBM Rational TechNotes
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The greatest tool stack in the world can only take a company so far in their desire to create a DevOps environment. DevOps is more than that. It is also about culture, innovation and commitment. Without the right process and thinking in place, DevOps is just another ridiculed buzzword. With this in mind, here are a few tips everyone should keep in mind on the path to a true DevOps culture.

Get Buy-In

To have success everyone should be pulling in the same direction. Getting the buy-in from the different teams is key. Each team needs to know why this shift is occurring and should have input on the decisions made on workflows and tool selections. People can become very attached to their tool sets and processes which will heighten their resistance to change. Getting them to understand the total picture and goals, and having them as a participant in the decisions, will lessen the resistance and create ownership within the teams. Teams should also have insight into the challenges faced by the other teams so they can understand how their decisions impact the goals of others. Creating cross-team groups or liaisons to the other teams will facilitate discussion and understanding of the issues that permeate the entire development process. The more each team knows about the entire process and how their actions affect others creates a shared sense of responsibility and greater commitment to the overall goals.

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Ownership By Management

Far too often, DevOps is rolled out with great fanfare but slowly over time the effort wanes from lack of leadership and direction. A DevOps transition needs to have a strong, dedicated leader, preferably a C-level executive, who has a background in software development. One who understands the actual production issues and will work with the teams through the difficult changes to work process, collaboration and job functions. If there isn't leadership from above, team members will question the commitment to the new process and slowly devolve back into their old work habits without fear of repercussions. The process can quickly go off the rails if employees believe there is a lack of dedication from the corporate leaders.

Embrace Failure

DevOps is all about innovation. Being better and faster than the competition and markets. To accomplish these goals, you must be innovating all the time. If you have a culture of "make no mistakes" or "lets shame the person who script broke the website" then your team goals will be limited to "don't screw up." To create innovation you must embrace (and perhaps celebrate) failure. When something breaks then your team has learned something. To bet the completion, new avenues and directions must be tried out. If it fails, great! The team was trying to do something new. The lightbulb wasn't built in a day and few of us are as smart as Thomas Edison. Understanding what went wrong and why is the key here. Make sure it doesn't happen again. Learn from the mistake and keep innovating. Each week have a blameless post mortem. Maybe even give out a prize for the biggest failure. Let everyone know there is no penalty for trying something different.

ReleaseTEAM at OSCON

OSCON is coming and we are heading to Austin with some of our partners (GitHub, GitLab, IBM, HP). Come join us....

OSCON is where all of the pieces come together: developers, innovators, businesspeople, and investors. In the early days, this trailblazing O'Reilly event was focused on changing mainstream business thinking and practices; today OSCON is about real-world practices and how to successfully implement open source in your workflow or projects. While the open source community has always been viewed as building the future—that future is here, and it's everywhere you look. Since 1999, OSCON has been the best place on the planet to experience the open source ecosystem. At OSCON, you'll find everything open source: languages, communities, best practices, products and services. Rather than focus on a single language or aspect, such as cloud computing, OSCON allows you to learn about and practice the entire range of open source technologies.

<http://conferences.oreilly.com/oscon/open-source-us/public/content/about#experience>

Jenkins 2.0 is here!

Over the past 10 years, Jenkins has really grown to a de-facto standard tool that millions of people use to handle automation in software development and beyond. It is quite remarkable for a project that originally started as a hobby project under a different name. I'm very proud.

Around this time last year, we've celebrated 10 years, 1000 plugins, and 100K installations. That was a good time to retrospect, and we started thinking about the next 10 years of Jenkins and what's necessary to meet that challenge. This project has long been on a weekly "train" release model, so it was useful to step back and think about a big picture.

That is where three pillars of Jenkins 2.0 have emerged from.

[Click here to read the full announcement.](#)

Getting started with DevOps: A guide for IT managers

Promo: The paper, *Getting Started with DevOps: A Guide for IT Managers*, is based on the experiences of Gareth Rushgrove, senior software engineer at Puppet and former technical architect for UK's Government Digital Service, responsible for building GOV.UK.

The paper explores approaches an IT manager should take to make a DevOps initiative successful. DevOps practices will serve your team well, says Gareth, if you want the ability to deliver better software faster, scale quickly and easily, avoid the pitfalls of shadow IT, and enjoy better relationships with colleagues across the organisation.

Getting Started with DevOps: A Guide for IT Managers is an excellent introduction to DevOps drivers and challenges that goes beyond theoretical and provides practical tips you can implement right away. You can [download the white paper here](#) (registration required).

DevOps and deviance: How bad IT practices become accepted as normal

How many times have you witnessed a sub-optimal IT practice that everyone else thinks is ok, then over time accepted the behavior as being just fine and dandy?

Regardless of whether you lead a startup or work in an established business, we all have a tendency to accept dodgy behaviors. Even if outsiders see them as wrong, our IT teams are so accustomed to using them (without any adverse consequences) that they're quickly established as "normal" and accepted.

Studies into what's commonly referred to as the "normalization of deviance" have been conducted in areas such healthcare to aerospace, with evidence showing that many serious errors and disasters occur because established standards have been bypassed and bad practices "normalized". [Click here to read the full article](#)

Global DevOps Platform Market to Grow 19.42% - Requirement for Standardized Platform for Continuous Delivery of Software - Research and Markets

The global DevOps platform market is projected to grow at a CAGR of 19.42% during the period 2016-2020.

DevOps is an emerging trend in the IT market, which is gaining popularity at a rapid pace. DevOps technology combines software development and operational processes to manage end-to-end systems development lifecycle (SDLC). Organizations are embracing DevOps solutions to innovate their software delivery supply chain processes.

DevOps tools are becoming more popular because they provide a holistic IT environment for the automation of software development processes. DevOps works on the principle of collaborative work management systems by combining people, processes, and technology.

[Click here for the full report](#)

Falling back on bad habits in a DevOps organization

There's a lot to love about DevOps -- in the abstract. In real-life implementations, a DevOps organization is subject to the same turf wars and poorly suited tools as traditional IT. It also opens IT up to a few new challenges, including isolation from peers and unstructured adoption paths.

"As [teams are] trying new tools and flows, nothing is perfect from the get-go," said Vijaya Kokkili, director of quality at CommerceHub, a support provider for e-commerce retailers based in Albany, N.Y. "We have stumbled on several issues, and still some we don't have answers for."

In the two years since her company adopted DevOps, Kokkili saw both the challenges of the transition and of the new reality.

"We found that we were trying to put so many standards in place that it makes it hard to get things done," she said. "It's not about this tool or that tool making it work," the teams realized, but about how you communicate and collaborate and refine how you're working.

[Click here for the full article](#)

The Puzzler

Now for this month's puzzler:

There is a five-letter word in which you can remove the first letter, and the resulting four-letter word is a homophone, a word pronounced the same. Additionally, one can remove the second letter of this five-letter word and get yet another homophone. **What is this word?** For example, if we take the word "Track", and remove the second letter, it would be "Tack", and if we remove the first letter, it would be "Rack", neither of which are homophones of "Track".

Here is last month's question:

Can you tell us the probability of choosing the correct answer if you had to pick randomly?

- 1) $1/4$
- 2) $1/2$
- 3) 1
- 4) $1/4$

Answer: None of them! This is an impossible puzzler, each choice contradicts itself. We promise this next one has an answer.

The winner this month is **Jack M.**! Email puzzler@releaseteam.com to claim your \$27 gift card!

Send us in your answers and we will randomly pick a winner from all the correct answers to win a