Leadership in DevOps

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Different leadership styles

- Traditionally transactional leadership
- Shifts in culture and technical requirements → transformational leadership
- Informal leaders



Faster release cycles

- Historically infrequent releases in software companies
- frequent releases, can't go through many layers of management
- Informal leaders and transformational leadership promote good decision making at every level



Server goes down

- Critical, time sensitive situation
- Requires "do as you're told, or else" leadership where quickness of decision making > collaborating, challenging ideas.



Server temporarily unavailable

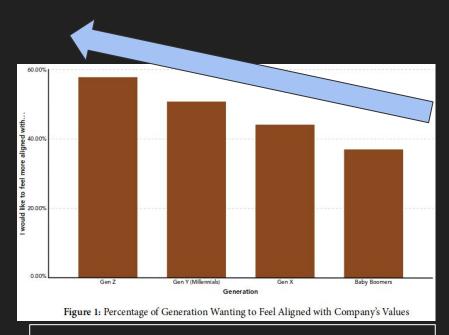


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Younger generations want meaning + harder to hire

- Transformational leadership is on the rise
- Clear vision of company goals
- Can be incentive for industry shift





Source: DevOps Enterprise Journal 2022 (Zimman et al.)

Summary

- Faster release cycles call for transformational leadership and informal leaders
- Certain situations may require falling back to transactional leadership
- Younger generations have a higher desire to feel that the company's views are aligned with their own

Takeaway: Transformational leadership and informal leaders are good ways of mitigating some challenges DevOps has given rise to, as well as making sure the organization's values are followed

Sources

Adam Zimman et. al 2022, Measuring Leadership: The Impact of Informal Leaders in a Modern Devops Organization

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