

# Deployment Strategies in CI/CD Pipelines

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**Abstract.** In the last decade, software development experienced a huge transition. Since agile methodologies were introduced in the early 2000, software development became faster and faster. Today, another software development process is emerging: Continuous Software Engineering (CSE). CSE, especially Continuous Integration(CI), Continuous Delivery(CDE) and Continuous Deployment(CD) receive more and more attention in organizations such as Facebook, Paddy Power and Atlassian but also in small start-up companies. It enables them to e.g. deliver software more frequently, reduce time-to-market, obtain customer feedback faster, build the right product or to improve product quality. Therefore, this seminar paper presents the current state of the art concerning Continuous Practices, compares the traditional deployment strategies with the new CSE practices and proposes some tools, that can be used in a CI/CD Pipeline to support CSE.

**Keywords** - Agile, continuous software development, continuous integration, continuous delivery, continuous deployment, DevOps, CI/CD Pipeline

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## 1 Introduction

Today, the software development process has to face many difficult demands. Fast-changing and unpredictable markets, changing customer requirements [CISA15] and rapidly advancing information technologies [OlAB12] require a faster process of software development. To achieve this, several organizations adopt Continuous Practices in order to extend their agile practices [CISA15]. Therefore, releasing software becomes even faster.

This seminar paper presents an evolution path, called 'stairway to heaven' [OlAB12], which describes a possible transition from traditional development towards CD. As the core of CDE is a deployment pipeline [SCLZ<sup>+</sup>16], the paper also presents its usual phases and the possible tools, that support each phase. Nevertheless, studying several papers revealed, that CDE not only comes with benefits, but also with huge social and technical challenges [CISA15]. The paper clarifies them and proposes some mitigation strategies. The remainder of the seminar paper is structured as follows: In section II, we define the terminology. Section III describes a possible transition from traditional deployment to CD based on the 'stairway to heaven' model [OlAB12]. That section is followed by the explanation of a possible pipeline and the available tools which can be used to support the tasks of each phase. Section V discusses the challenges that is caused by CDE and possible mitigation strategies. Finally, I present my conclusion in section VI.

## 2 Background

Here, I give an overview of the most important keywords. Those keywords are necessary to understand the content of the seminar paper. When studying the given information about Continuous Software Engineering (CSE), one could clearly see that there are no universally accepted definitions [SCLZ<sup>+</sup>16]. Therefore, the following subsections provide the definitions as they are used in this seminar paper.

### 2.1 Agile Methodologies

Agile software development is based on "iterative development, where requirements and solutions evolve through collaboration between self-organizing cross-functional teams" [TaKB16]. It encourages adaptive planning, early delivery and continuous improvement. Besides, other characteristics such as flexibility, efficiency, speed, the ability to react to fast changing customer requirements and fluctuating market needs [OlAB12] make agile methodologies so attractive for organizations. As mentioned before, agile methodologies were introduced in the early 2000 [ShBZ17]. So far, many development companies succeeded in implementing agile methodologies. However, agile software development 'only' allows frequent software releases but no continuous releases. The difference becomes clear, when it comes to the comparison of traditional deployment and CD.

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