Caleb Stark, 1/19/2025, Linkedin Case Study Module 2 Assignment 2

The case study that was provided is one that covers a topic that is a key part of DevOps. The case study gets into the cost of technical debt and the impact it has on a company’s software development process. Within the study Linkedin found itself it a rough spot just after going public, at this time the website and it’s infostructure was around 8 years old and many of the original developmental practices were still in use without much change. The problem here is that as new services were added the strain on the infrastructure and software in place became worse and worse. That on top of a development cycle that saw updates being a bi weekly event led to issues anytime a update was deployed. Upgrades were made to hardware but replacing the entire infrastructure was a much harder and more complex task. The issues with server uptime and update bugs became so bad that the VP of engineering decided something had to change and went forward with that infrastructure restructuring. This wasn’t just a restructuring though he went out and looked to rebuild the entire development culture from the ground up rethinking how updates are handled, adding tools to automate testing and deployments, and setting up the infrastructure to be scalable. This change was a two month commitment and during that time the development teams did not release any new features or work on other additional services they were strictly focused on the changes to the core infrastructure and culture.

I really appreciate this study because it shows that it is not impossible to make the change if you have the right by in. One of the things that I think a lot about is the aging infrastructure of many municipalities within the united states and how a lot of the systems out in the lower funded areas may be barely holding on. I am sure that these systems are some of the largest holders of the technical dept because frankly who would want to risk upsetting the status quo of these systems when they are working. But the moment they don’t work we find ourselves just hoping that someone who knows that system is available and able to get it back up asap. Especially when talking about utilities.

# References

Gene Kim, J. H. (2021). The DevOps Handbook, 2nd Edition. In J. H. Gene Kim, *The DevOps Handbook, 2nd Edition.* IT Revolution Press.