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**The History of DevOps**

In the current society that we live in, Software development has become one of the most important building blocks by encouraging innovations like cellphone, computer software, and more. As the process of developing software has become more complex, the need for more efficient processes has grown. One of the processes that has really revolutionized software development is DevOps. Lets explore the history of DevOps and the roots that it has with the Lean Movement, the Agile Manifesto, and the Continuous Delivery Movement and how each of these impact software development today.

In the beginning of software development, it was a very slow process that was primarily accomplished using the Waterfall Model as its form of project management. This mode; split the development process into different stages like gathering the requirements, designing, implementing, testing, deployment, then maintenance. In the Waterfall Method, each stage was fully dependent on the completion of the previous stage. While the Waterfall Method was notoriously famous for its success with the Apollo Program with NASA, overall this method lacked flexibility, allowed no room for errors, and did not allow for the continuation of change without starting the whole process over again.

With the inefficiencies that the Waterfall Method had, it prompted the rise of the Lean Movement in the 1940’s, which was initially started in manufacturing. Lean principles focused on eliminating waste, improving processes, and delivering value at a more efficient rate. In software development, this meant to minimization of delays, focusing on continuous improvement, and creating a foundation for a more adaptive methodology.

Flash forward into the late 1990’s, Agile was a response to more rigidities in the Waterfall Model. The Agile Method wasn’t formally introduced until 2001 with the Agile Manifesto which emphasized iterative development, flexibility, and collaboration. Agile allowed for teams to work in shorter cycles which are referred to as sprints. This allows for continuous improvements and the delivery of parts of the software rather than waiting for the completion of the whole project. With the focus on speed, quality, and customer involvement, the Agile method became a preferred method over the Waterfall Method.

To build onto Agile principles, the Continuous Delivery Movement, championed by Jez Humble and David Farley in their 2010 book "Continuous Delivery," aimed to automate and streamline the build, test, and deployment processes. Continuous Delivery allowed for rapid, incremental delivery of high-quality software, further bridging the gap between development and operations.

In 2007, Patrick Debois, frustrated by the divide between development and operations, sought to integrate these functions. His efforts, along with Andrew Shafer’s concept of "Agile Infrastructure," led to the first DevOpsDays conference in 2009, where the term "DevOps" was coined to describe this collaborative approach that combined development (Dev) and operations (Ops).

DevOps has significantly transformed software development by accelerating time-to-market, enhancing collaboration between developers, testers, and operations teams, increasing quality through automated testing and deployment, and streamlining processes for greater efficiency

DevOps, born from the need to improve software development efficiency, integrates the best practices of Lean, Agile, and Continuous Delivery. Its emphasis on collaboration, automation, and continuous improvement has made it an indispensable part of modern software development. As the field evolves, DevOps will continue to shape the future of software engineering, driving faster, more reliable, and higher-quality software delivery.

Sources:

[A Brief History of DevOps and Its Impact on Software Development](https://everythingdevops.dev/a-brief-history-of-devops-and-its-impact-on-software-development/)