CSD 380 Discussion 12

One trend I observed is the rise of platform engineering for DevOps success. Platform engineering is emerging as a dominant approach to scale DevOps practices in enterprises. By creating self-service platforms, platform teams reduce developer’s cognitive load and standardize workflows which in turn improve software delivery speed and reliability. Organizations have struggled to scale DevOps successfully beyond individual teams, especially in large, complex environments. Platform engineering provides a clear, prescriptive framework that bridges this gap. It promises increased speed, reliability, and security while enabling developers to focus on coding rather than infrastructure complexities. This trend will continue to grow rapidly in the coming year as organizations realize the benefits of platform engineering. The report already highlights a strong adoption trajectory, with 70% of organizations believing their timing is just right. As firms move up the DevOps maturity curve, platform engineering will likely become a standard practice, especially for large enterprises.

Another trend is underinvestment in platform product management. Despite the critical need for product management skills on platform teams, organizations are not prioritizing hiring dedicated product managers. This leads to gaps in communication, user education, and the platform’s continuous evolution. Organizations often misinterpret the role of product management in internal platforms, confusing it with project management. There is also a historical bias toward technical roles, leaving product strategy and evangelism as afterthoughts. This issue may persist but improve gradually in the coming year. Organizations that have had platform teams for more than three years are beginning to recognize the need for product managers, as seen by 74% agreement on the value of this role. Growing awareness and platform maturity will drive firms to prioritize these hires, but change will be slow as cultural shifts take time.

Lastly there is the increased centralization of platform teams. Where most organizations are moving toward centralized platform teams to serve multiple business units. This approach reduces duplication, streamlines resources, and creates consistency across the organization. The shift to centralized teams reflects a need for efficiency at scale. Decentralized teams often lead to duplicated work and fragmented infrastructure, whereas centralization enables standardization, cost control, and better security. This trend will continue to accelerate as firms aim to optimize platform engineering efforts. However, challenges like balancing centralization with developer autonomy will remain. Organizations that invest in communication and product management will likely see the best outcomes, whereas those that enforce centralization without user collaboration may face resistance