Matthew Trinh

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Assignment 2.2

The Case study in the text talks about Operation InVersion which was started by LinkedIn in 2011. This was in response to issues with their deployment processes and infrastructure. Early in LinkedIn days they relied heavily on a Java application named Leo which struggled to scale and maintain performance especially with how the number of users grew exponentially. Due to the lack of deployment up until 2010, it would result in significant downtime and operational challenges. Under the leadership of Kevin Scott, he decided to halt all new feature development for two months that way the engineering team would be able to overhaul the core infrastructure, improve tool and enhance the deployment process. By initiating this pause, the organization was able to shift their architecture which allowed them to increase deployment frequency and reducing the amount of technical debt accumulated over the years.

Some lessoned that we learn is the prioritization of technical debt management. As we saw in the eyes of LinkedIn, they were initially unable to manage their technical debt. This led to significantly long periods of downtime. Had they not initiated Operation Inversion, LinkedIn would probably be obsolete. By regularly addressing technical debt, organizations are able to ensure long term stability. However, that was not the only lesson to be learned. There also needs to be some kind of cultural shift. In this age of technology where we are constantly evolving and developing new and better tech. If organizations don’t focus on the upkeep, focus on the new items that are being developed, they will keep falling further into technical debt. We see that LinkedIn’s change in structure allowed them to transition to microservices which in turns enhances their deployment agility which allows for more frequent updates. With frequent updates, the software becomes more resilient and secure. Operation InVersion highlighted the importance of balancing feature development with infrastructure needs. The operation sets a precendant for how to manage growth sustainability in a tech-driven environment.