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CSD380 Module 12.1 Discussion

7/18/2024

Read through the Puppet-State-of-DevOps-Report-2023.pdf,   
select at least three trends. For each of those trends,   
describe them in your own words,   
provide an opinion on why that trend is occurring, and   
provide your own forecast for that trend in 2024.   
Will it improve? Get worse? Why?

Hello,

For the Module 12 discussion I will be giving an overview of three different trends that were found in Puppet’s State of DevOps Report for 2023. The three trends I’ll write about are the need for product management in platform teams, the gaps in being found in product management skills for platform engineering, and the shift towards autonomous teams in the platform.

From the report, there is a growing importance to have a product manager on the platform team. The role would ensure the platform stays aligned with user needs and business goals. Without proper management, solutions may be built that are solid but not focused on the feature or role they were supposed to perform. Product management will make sure the right problems are solved while continuously improving the platform. This importance will only increase as time goes on and there will be less focus on technical skills such as an engineer and more on leadership and decision-making capabilities like a product manager.

Another facet that was found in the reading was that current product management skills are lacking. This supports the trend above in that the focus will shift away from technical skills toward finding a balance between different focuses of platform engineering. The current focus in on core engineering roles over product management and there is an increase in the skill gaps needed to handle the platform and the inherent change management and implementation. Skills that teams are finding gaps are communication, problem-solving, establishing and maintaining cross-functional teams, distilling requests into needs and requirements, a knowledge of the internal aspect of the business, and the willingness to challenge established norms. I think it will get worse before it will get better. The paradigm shift of platform engineering to platform-as-product will take time as the majority catches up to the minority.

The last trend that will be discussed is the shift towards autonomous teams and self-service platforms. Empowering teams to handle end-to-end tasks without the involvement of a third party is increasing. This is driven by a need of faster response times and quick decision making while also being able to track expenses and perform postmortems on issues. It will also reduce dependencies on outside support and delays usually caused by red-tape. This trend will continue to grow, my own company is implementing self-service assistance for our parts and outside services being ordered, invoiced, and paid in a timely fashion. Hope this coverage on the topic was interesting and going over the trends were informative.

Thank you for your time,

Jeremiah K.

Reference(s):

