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CSD 380 DevOps

Module 1.3: A Brief History

DevOps started as complaints, griping, and frequent occurrences of the blame game between development and operational teams. Frustrations were high due to longer value streams, deployment problems, and unsatisfied customers. The two communities, developers and operations, began talking about ways to lift frustrations, as they continually grew. [1] This movement, or rather the search for improvement, began around 2006 and became even more popular around 2008 when IaaS and PaaS were just starting. [2]

The primary objective of DevOps was a shift between development then operations to development with operations. The system encouraged more communication between the teams, and more visibility so that each part could help the other instead of hindering. [1]

Initially, people were concerned that adopting DevOps meant abandoning all the good of previous lean and agile work methods that provided decent structure to their processes. As the foundations were elaborated, around 2016 with the *DevOps Handbook*, it became clear that rather than replacing them, they seemed to combine then. [3]

The lean movement is most commonly attributed to Henry Ford’s assembly line, and the modifications that Kiichiro Toyoda made to that process. Applying lean principles to software and the personal computer boom of the 90’s simply meant to trim the fat. Any unnecessary activities should not be activities. Streamline the processes to that no time is wasted, ultimately resulting in getting value to the customer more quickly. [2]

As that need grew drastically at the turn of the century, the waterfall method grew less useful. A group of 17 developers merged ideas from Lean and Scrum to create the Agile Method. Its primary focus was shorter processing times, sprints, that allowed for more feedback faster, and better customer satisfaction. [3]

While Agile practices helped timelines improve dramatically, there were still frustrations. Again, developers decided to meet amongst themselves about the most common practices and DevOps was born. With an ultimate goal to eliminate unnecessary work, communicate as far across department lines as possible, and all while using Agile style timelines, DevOps has remained popular and continued to grow in use. Rather than a strict method, it’s often touted as a mindset shift aimed at continual improvement, delivery, and feedback. [2]

Sources:

[1] [Atlassian](https://www.atlassian.com/devops/what-is-devops/history-of-devops)

[2] <https://www.3pillarglobal.com/insights/blog/lean-agile-and-devops-a-focus-on-delivering-value/>

[3] <https://cacm.acm.org/research/what-do-agile-lean-and-itil-mean-to-devops/>