The Twelve-Factor App

The Twelve-Factor App is a methodology for building distributed applications that run in the cloud and are delivered as a service. These best practices help developers build applications that are portable, scalable, agile, reliable and consistent.

1. Codebase. Use one codebase, even when building cross-platform apps. Address the needs of specific devices with version control.

2. Dependencies. Explicitly declare and isolate all dependencies.

3. Configuration. Design the app to read its config from the environment.

4. Backing services. Treat back-end services as attached resources to be accessed with a URL or other locator stored in config.

5. Build, release, run. Strictly separate build and run stages.

6. Processes. Execute the app as one or more stateless processes. Data that must be persistent should be stored in a stateful backing service.

7. Port binding. Use port binding to export services.

8. Concurrency. Scale out apps horizontally, not vertically.

9. Disposability. Use fast startups and graceful shutdowns to maximize robustness.

10. Parity. Facilitate continuous deployment by ensuring that development, staging and production environments are as similar as possible.

11. Logs. Treat logs as event streams.

12. Admin processes. Run admin tasks as one-off processes from a machine in the production environment that is running the latest production code.

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