# Beaker and Flask

What’s happening in the world of Catalyst DevLabs? A peek into the inner workings of Catalyst’s top secret laboratory. OK, so it’s not top secret, and it’s not really a laboratory. However, DevLabs is the place where knowledge workers are grown and groomed. (used to be called “the bench.”)

Based on published works referenced below, all addressing the “knowledge worker,” Catalyst has transformed “the bench” into Catalyst DevLabs. Rob Winkler, David Kaus, Paolo Hilario, Sam Landesberg, Eric Merlock, Dan Reuther, Zachary Patterson, Hayes McCardell and Andrew Coomes have been instrumental in this huge initiative. What is it all about?

Anyone in the company can submit a proposal (using a template found on the DevLabs Confluence page at <https://catalystit.atlassian.net/wiki/pages/viewpage.action?pageId=64978946>). There are currently EIGHT projects under development, and two have been completed since March 2016.

Eight? That’s right, eight! Baltimore is working on a Corporate API (CAPI), O3 Tracker, and the Salesforce Android App. Portland teams are developing the OAuth, the Talent Review app, Aperture Assessment, ATA Mobile and Project Overwatch. PRaST and the new Employee Directory were recently completed by teams working in DevLabs. Why DevLabs projects?

The development of working software that fills our business needs developed is fairly obvious. Not so obvious is the additional training for our people. Project teams learn to use Agile processes on a real project, they learn to work together as a team, and their coding and communications skills improve through exercise and utility. DevLabs projects are modelled after client projects, giving teams exposure to what they can expect when assigned to a billing project.

In future issues we’ll peek into each of these projects, their teams, and the proposals for new projects.

Peter F. Drucker

Knowledge-Worker Productivity: The Biggest Challenge

[CALIFORNIA MANAGEMENT REVIEW VOL. 41, NO. 2 WINTER 1999](http://www.forschungsnetzwerk.at/downloadpub/knowledge_workers_the_biggest_challenge.pdf)

Martin Dewhurst, Bryan Hancock, and Diana Ellsworth

Redesigning Knowledge Work

[HARVARD BUSINESS REVIEW: JAN - FEB 2013](https://hbr.org/2013/01/redesigning-knowledge-work?cm_sp=Article-_-Links-_-Top%20of%20Page%20Recirculation)

Rick Wartzman

What Peter Drucker Knew About 2020

[HARVARD BUSINESS REVIEW: OCT 2014](https://hbr.org/2014/10/what-peter-drucker-knew-about-2020)

Peter F. Drucker

The New Society of Organizations

[HARVARD BUSINESS REVIEW: SEP - OCT 1992](http://www.forschungsnetzwerk.at/downloadpub/knowledge_workers_the_biggest_challenge.pdf)