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Module 2 – Assignment 1

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https://github.com/VanhSom/csd-380.git

Operation InVersion at LinkedIn in 2011 is a great example of why addressing technical deficits should be a routine part of engineering work. LinkedIn faced significant challenges six months after going public in its outdated technical systems. To resolve these issues, the company took a bold step by pausing all new feature development for two months to focus entirely on improving their systems, deployments, and infrastructure.

At that time, LinkedIn used an extensive, all-in-one application called Leo, which struggled to keep up with the company’s rapid growth. The troublesome application frequently crashed and was difficult to fix. It slowed the release of updates and new deployments were happening every two weeks. These central issues created a stressful work environment at LinkedIn, which often required engineers to work late at nights to attempt to resolve these problems.

LinkedIn’s Vice President of Engineering, Kevin Scott, recognized that the company struggled to keep its growth. Although this move was risky at the time, he decided to stop all work on new features and focused on the entire engineering team on repairing and improving the system’s infrastructure. The results of Operation Inversion were terrific. The deployment cycle became much quicker, with updates occurring several times a day instead of once every two weeks. LinkedIn’s system stability improved and led to fewer late night troubleshooting sessions for the engineering team.

The main lessons from the case study stress the importance of dealing with technical issues early on. If system problems are ignored for too long, they can lead to severe disruptions. These issues can also result in expensive repairs later. LinkedIn’s experiences show that addressing technical challenges early helps prevent more significant problems. It also keeps the system running smoothly to meet the demands of the company’s growth. Also, ensuring engineering work efforts support the company’s bigger broader goals and creating a culture within the engineering teams that focuses on reliability.