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History of Devops

DevOps is a fundamental strategy of improving software while establishing a maintenance structure that is easily maintained and deployed by the development team. The goal is to reduce frustration by the end user and the development team by adhering to a deployment schedule that addresses current and ongoing software issues in an efficient manner. The term “DevOps” was coined by Patrick Debois in 2009 and is a combination of the words “development” and “operations”. It is methodology that optimizes the software lifecycle and improves the frequency of updates to produce a better product.

Prior to DevOps, developers would often deploy patches and updates approximately once a month or every few months. This was because the simple task of organizing the items to deploy was extremely labor intensive and took extreme amounts of time for the team to organize a deployment strategy. In some situations, the software deployment was delayed due to items not being ready for production. However, the software would still be deployed even though it contained bugs and unresolved issues from prior deployments. The next strategy was to follow-up the deployment with subsequent smaller updates to address the items that were not resolved before the major deployment. This system was not an efficient way of maintaining software and led to a poor user experience.

The journey of establishing Dev Ops started in 2007 when Patrick Debois was working on a data center migration. This is where he discovered the frustration and disorganization of working with the development side of the project and having to communicate with other cross functional teams. The lack of communication and consistency between the teams led to wasted time and unproductive solutions. It was not until 2008 that seeds began to be planted that would change the development world forever. Patrick met with a man named Andrew Shafter at an Agile conference that was conducted in Toronto, Canada that same year. Both shared similar experiences regarding the disconnect between the development team and the other teams working on the project. This conversation led to the creation of a discussion group that welcomed other like-minded individuals. From the years 2009 through 2015, the dev ops approach began to really accelerate and spread throughout the tech community. This heavily impacted the enterprise realm as well. In 2019, most companies began to implement the dev ops strategy into their culture and processes. The DevOps methodology is still used today.

Devops is based on the principles of the agile manifesto, the lean movement, and continuous delivery movement. The basis of the agile manifesto was to improve software development practices by advancing software incrementally with various stages. It allows the teams to work more efficiently to produce a better final product because they can focus on each stage individually vs the entire project all at once. The lean movement focuses on reducing waste to maximize results. The goal is to utilize effective time management to get the most out of the team and the product. Time is money and wasted time can become costly for a business. The final product will also suffer due to ineffective time management during the project development. The continuous delivery movement focuses on automating the process of building, testing, and delivering software improvements to the user environment. The automation allows the changes to be implemented on a schedule. This in turn produces faster development, reduced strain on the development team, and results in better overall product quality.

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