



Linux Academy

Jenkins

Best Practices



What Do We Mean?

Jenkins and the “DevOps” movement have caused companies to think of common tasks differently:

- Build Management
- Release Management
- Deployment Automation
- Test Orchestration

Given those changes and the use of a tool like Jenkins to help orchestrate that pipeline of activities, we are going to take a look at some of the “Best Practices” surrounding Jenkins use in that environment.





Must Do

- Backup Up Jenkins (at least Jenkins Home for job security)
- Use file fingerprinting to manage dependencies
- Build from Source Control whenever possible (will generate clean builds)
- Integrate Jenkins with an issue management or help desk system
- Take advantage of automated testing (with Java builds), generate and look at the reports
- Lay out your Jenkins install on the disk with the most storage (both Jenkins jobs and the build process will take up space)





Must Do

- Before deleting a job, have an archive copy. Better: never delete, move to an archive group or folder and disable the job
- Resist the temptation to have one build job for multiple environments (dev, test, prod) – consider creating one job to specialize in each environment to retain flexibility to make changes
- Email the results to all developers and operations staff for every job, particularly if Jenkins is not integrated into an issue management system
- Use Jenkins for common maintenance or clean up tasks that are run regularly.





Absolutely

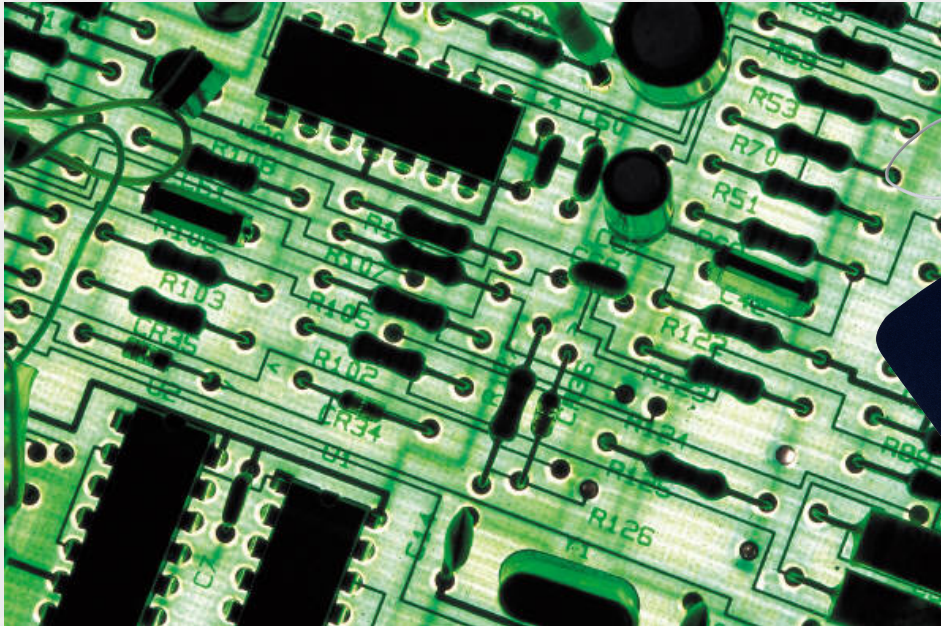
- Tag, merge or baseline your code in Source Control after a successful build
- Keep your Jenkins up to date – at least be on the latest LTS version
- Keep your plugins up to date – review the bug reports and see what they address
- **DON'T BUILD ON MASTER** except on very small deployments. If you have more than a dozen jobs and they are used by more than two or three people, set up build slaves to do the work





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Jenkins:

Whether this is the first time you have used or installed Jenkins or you are a seasoned Jenkins veteran, following these Best Practices will help you get the most out of your tool and save you from the most common pitfalls and problems!

