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CSD 380

Module 2.2

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LinkedIn Case Study

Operation InVersion at LinkedIn was a project launched by LinkedIn in 2011 to address their growing technical debt and to work towards a reliable, faster, and scalable deployment system. They halted all work for a period of two months to overhaul the site, and the results were lucrative. Before InVersion, LinkedIn was dealing with prolonged release cycles, fragile deployments, and poor communication and collaboration between development and operations teams. At the time their system was built as a monolithic application, every time a modification was made it would affect the entire system.

The objective of Operation InVersion was to make the deployment process reliable, safe, and faster. The operation began by breaking their application into smaller services for the different teams to work and deploy independently. This was a major turning point and a step towards service-oriented architecture. With these updates could be made to the system without having to take down the entire platform. Another notable change was the introduction of automation.

With the implementation of automation, LinkedIn tested and deployed processes to reduce human errors. Collaboration between developers and operations teams was also improved. Teams worked through collaborating with one another instead of working separately, which sped up the delivery process. Due to these efforts, LinkedIn went from monthly deployments to multiple deployments a day. The release process was quicker, the quality of the software was improved, and the systems became more stable.

The lessons learned from Operation InVersion were; having smaller services makes the deployment process easier. Automation helps reduce human errors, while saving time and increasing reliability. Collaborating is essential when teams work together and communicating problems are solved faster. Frequent and stable releases are achievable with the correct strategies in place. Finally, changing culture is necessary as it helps improve how people work together.

Operation InVersion is an extemporary outcome of how a company can overcome technical and organizational difficulties by implementing DevOps principles. It demonstrates that with the correct tools and mindset, even slow systems can become reliable and fast.

References:

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