Hunter Dale

CSD-380

John Woods

30 March 2025

A Brief Summary of Operation InVersion: Lessons Learned

In 2011, LinkedIn Decided that their infrastructure, Leo, was becoming obsolete so they made the brave decision to stop everything involving development. It was becoming harder and harder to create safe programs. They had years of technical debt adding up, so they needed to do something. In the case study, they basically explain how they uprooted the entire system and created something entirely new, hence the name InVersion. This reminded me of the Camden Experiment. This was a situation in Camden, New Jersey where they fired all of the police force and they had to reapply for their jobs. It did exactly what Operation Inversion did for LinkedIn. It weeded out all of the problems and created a new culture within the company. The new deployment tools allowed for faster and safer releases of code. In 2010 they had about 150 services, but by 2015 after everything settled they were able to have over 750 services up and running. When Leo was still active, LinkedIn had a need for late night fixes and instead of creating new things, all they were doing was fixing old problems.

The biggest lessons learned from all of this in my opinion is that technical debt needs to be addressed ASAP instead of being pushed back like theirs was. They also learned that innovation is important. When you start having to only fix things and never come up with new ideas the productivity and efficiency goes down because the need for creativity goes out the window. Another huge lesson learned is that sometimes it is okay to make big bold decisions because as you ca see it could pay off, but making too many of them can result is bigger problems.