Edgar Arroyo

January 18, 2025

Module 2.2 Assignment - Operation InVersion at LinkedIn (2011)

The case study presented in Chapter 6 of The DevOps Handbook highlights LinkedIn’s endeavor to pay off significant technical debt that had accumulated over the years, particularly with their Leo application. The need for became evident in 2011, after LinkedIn had their successful IPO. Post-IPO, deployments became few and far between, and issues with deployed features caused engineers to spend long nights troubleshooting and fixing problems. Kevin Scott, VP of Engineering at LinkedIn, came up with the idea to stop all feature development, and focus all engineering efforts toward addressing technical debt by overhauling their computing environments, deployments, and system architecture, including “Killing Leo”. This project underscores the importance of addressing technical debt early to prevent it from accumulating to a point where it slows deployment and stalls production. The case also highlights the crucial role of strong leadership. It took a strong leader to make the tough call to prioritize addressing technical debt over rolling out new features and to lead a cultural shift toward DevOps ideals.