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DevOps

Module 2 Assignment

January 19th, 2025

The case study in chapter 6 of our text provides a great example of technical debt and how it can hinder a business and development team. LinkedIn was created in 2003 and grew very quickly. It originally ran on their own monolithic Java application known as “Leo”. As it became more popular, it was difficult to deploy new features and updates. The main issue was that Leo was being deployed only once every couple of weeks. LinkedIn continued to add memory and CPUs to Leo, but ultimately that wasn’t enough. If too many features were to be deployed at once, the entire site would fall apart or crash. This left developers spending extreme amounts of time working to fix the issues caused and overall creating an unhealthy and miserable work experience for them.

A few of the top engineers within the company came together and decided that they needed to get rid of Leo as a whole. This is where Operation Inversion was created. During this time, developers were to stop working on new feature development and focus on fixing the architecture of the site. There were many major benefits that came from Operation Inversion. The development team worked to create and gain software and tools that help with coding and development. They picked up automated methods to help check for code errors and ensure that new features were ready for deployment. This also gave them more time to create better and more innovative features.

There are a few things that I’ve learned from this case study. The most important message that it taught me was that it is necessary to pay off technical debt. There may be a simple temporary solution, but if we don’t revisit these issues, it could cost a lot of time and resources. It can also create a larger and more difficult issue in the future. Another important thing that I took from this reading, was that paying technical debt off can ensure stronger development methods, but it can also help to foster a healthy working environment for a development team. This creates stronger teams and allows them more time for production and quality work.

Biggest Takeaways:

- Managing technical debt is extremely important to help keep a strong flow of productivity and workplace happiness.
- Ensuring that issues are handled in a timely manner is necessary
- Prioritize things that need to be addressed
- Issues that aren’t handled can turn into much larger issues
- Teams should have a stable work environment to perform their best