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Operation InVersion at LinkedIn Summary

The Problem:

The case study focuses on how LinkedIn tackled severe technical issues after its 2011 IPO. LinkedIn had started out with a monolithic application called Leo. As more users decided to join this app, technical issues arose, Leo kept crashing, updates were very slow, and fixing the issues became mundane. Engineers spent too much time trying to fix these issues rather than building actual software that would improve user experiences.

The Solution:

Operation InVersion launched, and the focus was to stop all feature advancements in order to fix the main issues at hand. The engineers broke Leo into smaller, independent services (**microservices**) and built better tools for testing and deploying code.

The Result

After a successful operation, there were faster and safer updates – instead of every 2 weeks, they could now deploy changes 3 times a day. The site became instantly more reliable, reducing late-night emergency fixes. The growth the application incurred after the operation was undoubtedly effective. The number of services grew from 150 to 750+.

Key Lessons Learned

One of the key lessons is to fix problems early, or they will snowball and become increasing problems. Investing in good infrastructure also improved their application, it meant faster and safer updates. A good foundation helps long-term success; taking a step back and pausing new features was a great idea. LinkedIn's story shows that even successful companies must stop and fix their tech problems—otherwise, growth becomes impossible.