**The Principles Underpinning DevOps**

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DevOps is a modern software development methodology that promotes collaboration between development and operations teams to improve delivery speed, quality, and efficiency. At its core, DevOps is built on a set of foundational principles that guide continuous improvement, automation, and cultural transformation.

One key principle is to limit work in progress (WIP). By minimizing the number of tasks in progress, teams reduce context switching and improve focus, leading to faster and more predictable outcomes. This approach is closely tied to lean thinking and helps eliminate bottlenecks in the development pipeline (Atlassian, n.d.).

Another essential principle is to eliminate hardships and waste in the value stream. This involves removing unnecessary steps, automating repetitive processes, and improving feedback loops. DevOps encourages identifying inefficiencies early to reduce delays and improve overall productivity (Microsoft Learn, 2023).

DevOps also promotes optimizing for downstream work centers by ensuring that early development decisions support later stages such as testing, deployment, and operations. This fosters a shared responsibility mindset and reduces rework caused by siloed decision-making (Red Hat, 2023).

A strong DevOps culture emphasizes institutionalizing the improvement of daily work, encouraging teams to continuously refine processes and tools. Small, incremental changes become part of the routine rather than occasional, large-scale overhauls (AWS, n.d.).

Teams are also encouraged to transform local discoveries into global improvements. By sharing successful practices across teams and departments, organizations reduce redundancy and spread innovation (Atlassian, n.d.).

Finally, leaders reinforce a learning culture by supporting experimentation, promoting transparency, and rewarding learning over blame. This builds psychological safety and drives long-term growth and innovation (Google Cloud, 2022).

In summary, these principles form the backbone of DevOps and are crucial for building scalable, efficient, and resilient development practices.

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