

Alternative Tool Research:

Continuous Integration:

Bamboo: Bamboo is a product from the Atlassian Company which means it will integrate seamlessly with their other products like Jira, Trello, and Bitbucket. This could be something that is more company specific, but if the company you are working for uses any of these tools already, then adding in Bamboo may be beneficial for integration reasons. Bamboo is a server-based CI/CD pipeline tool that functions similarly to CircleCI that we learned. Bamboo has a configuration file that tells the server what tasks to perform and when. The file belongs to a 'Project' and is split up into 'Plans' and each plan can have 'Stages.' Inside of the stages you can establish 'Jobs' with 'Tasks.' The program will perform each stage in sequence.

PROS:

- Drag and Drop server configuration UI
- Integration with other products like Jira, Trello, and Bitbucket
- Seamless Integration with services like AWS and Digital Ocean
- Can pause the pipeline for human input before deployment, like many others
- Docker Support
- Java Support
- Contains a feature that tracks Deployment versions similarly to version control software does for code for quick reference to previous deployed versions

CONS:

- Subscription service with short trial date
- No open source projects
- Large Migration from a server-based product to cloud-hosted solutions coming within the next 3 years, No longer able to purchase new server licenses for Atlassian Server Products

There is a development sandbox called Forge where you can practice and build projects. Ease of transition and start up seems rather simple. This tool has been around since 2008, with version releases of 1-5 over the last 13 years.

Real Time Error Monitoring:

Raygun: Raygun seems to be the top choice among most websites for the most modern error monitoring service to use in 2021, So either their marketing is on point or they're that good. The things people say they like about Raygun is the complete user experience aspect to the software. It provides a comprehensive snapshot into the events surrounding a crash or bug that a user experiences and even groups errors together when there are commonalities between user environments. It is a paid service, but their pricing seems to be about on par with other services and is charged by event count, which kind of rewards good code. There is also support for every widely used language, which is a big upside against most competitors.

PROS:

- 180 day data retention

- Captures handled and unhandled events
- Many filters for errors (OS, Date, Time, Version, Host, Browser, etc)
- Easy to interpret graphs

CONS:

- Paid Service
- Billed via Volume, this may be your Achilles Heel

There is no sandbox to play in, but installation seems lightweight and simple. The web UI looks easy to use. This tool has many open source projects on GitHub with the earlier JS commit made over 6 years ago and the most recent commit made 22 days ago.