AZUR GROUP

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Using BizDevOps and Microsoft Tools to Develop Cloud Solutions More Efficiently

The emergence of the BizDevOps method has truly changed the way software development projects are led. Businesses and IT departments no longer have to work in silos; instead, projects are achieved in continued collaboration. In this article, we will discuss how AZUR Group was able to evolve from Agile to DevOps and then to BizDevOps. We also explain how we developed our own approach: the Optimized Agile Solution, which now serves as the cornerstone of AZUR Group's Cloud Solutions Development Center: AZUR Innova.

As a Cloud Solution Provider, we have made it our goal to always enable business stakeholders, product owners, software developers, quality assurance (QA) agents and IT experts to work together consistently to deliver software that can improve the organization's operational efficiency. More specifically, we work with our customers to fast track the road from the development of a software feature to deployment in production where the feature can be tested and evaluated. This process involves maintaining high standards for software stability, reliability, availability and security.

Adding DevOps to our Agile Process

During its 18 years of existence, AZUR Group has witnessed and taken part in the rise of the Agile development methodology. This methodology represents a set of values, principles and processes enabling iterative software development. By fully embracing it, we managed to deliver numerous successful client projects. However, we felt like we could reduce project time, risks and costs by adding an important factor: automation. DevOps is a set of practices and tools which emphasize the collaboration between Development and Operations teams. In DevOps, one of the goals is to automate and therefore accelerate the process in which software is delivered in production environments. With technology giants like Amazon, Google and Microsoft performing thousands of software deployments in production environments every day, it became apparent that we needed to adapt our methods. To obtain such performance, we needed to implement a high-paced, high-quality software development machine that would limit manual operations to the development of "intelligent or business rule code." Hence, the new DevOps techniques would meet the need to automate most other task. As a Microsoft Gold Software Development partner, we use the Microsoft Visual Studio DevOps and Agile tools to automate software development, integration, testing and deployment as much as possible. We are also following a five-step maturity model to maximize both the quality and productivity of our processes.