**Discussion 1.1 – History of DevOps**

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# History of DevOps

To share the history of DevOps, below is a detailed history of DevOps timeline, listing all the defining moments and summarizing the contributions of key influential people from 2007 to 2019.

**2007**

DevOps started in 2007 when Patrick Debois — an IT consultant, recognized that development (**Dev**) and operations (**Ops**) teams were not working well together. While the gaps and conflicts between Dev and Ops have always been unsettling to him, the constant switching and back and forth on a large data center migration project where he was responsible for testing particularly frustrated him.

One day he was deep in the rhythm of Agile development. Next day he was firefighting and living the unpredictability of traditional operations. He knew there had to be a better way.

**2008**

The following year, at the 2008 Agile Conference, Andrew Shafer created a birds of a feather meeting (BoF) to discuss “Agile Infrastructure”. Andrew didn't think anybody would come, so he himself didn’t show up to his own meeting. Patrick Debois showed up and went looking for Andrew because he wanted to talk about Agile infrastructure being the solution to get operations to be as Agile as the developers were. This was where DevOps got started.

**2009**

In 2009, at the Velocity conference, John Allspaw and Paul Hammond talked about “10+ deploys per day - Dev and Ops Cooperation at Flickr,” and the idea started gaining traction. This talk made people notice what was possible by adopting these early DevOps practices. Also, in October 2009, Patrick, held the first DevOpsDays conference in Ghent, Belgium. It was described as “The conference that brings development and operations together.” This is where the term "DevOps" was first used. DevOpsDays is now a local conference held internationally several times a year in different cities.

**2010**

In 2010, Jez Humble and David Farley wrote a groundbreaking book called Continuous Delivery that sets out the principles and technical practices that enable rapid, incremental delivery of high-quality, valuable new functionality to users using a technique called Continuous Delivery.

Through automation of the build, deploy, and test processes, along with improved collaboration between developers, testers, and operations, delivery teams can release changes in a matter of hours—sometimes even minutes—no matter the size of a project or the complexity. The book is over 13 years old, but it still has a lot of great concepts that helped changed a lot of people's thinking about how to perform software delivery in a continuous fashion.

**2013**

Two years later, in 2013, Gene Kim, Kevin Behr, and George Spafford published The Phoenix Project, based on Eliyahu Goldratt’s book, The Goal. The Goal is about a manufacturing plant about to go under and what they had to do to bring it back to life. It is a story about lean manufacturing principles. The Phoenix Project is about an information technology (IT) shop in a company about to go under and what it took to bring it back to life. This story is about applying lean manufacturing principles to software development and delivery.

**2015**

In 2015, Dr. Nicole Forsgren, Gene Kim, and Jez Humble founded a startup called DORA (DevOps Research and Assessment) that produced what are now the largest DevOps studies to date called the State of DevOps Reports. She found that taking an experimental approach to product development can improve your IT and organizational performance and that high-performing organizations are decisively outperforming their lower-performing peers in terms of throughput. The research shows that undertaking a technology transformation initiative can produce sizeable cost savings in any organization. If you haven't read the most recent State of DevOps report, I strongly urge you to do so.

**2016**

The DevOps Handbook was published in 2016. It was written by Gene Kim, Jez Humble, Patrick Debois, and John Willis as a follow-on to The Phoenix Project and serves as a practical guide on implementing the concepts introduced in that book. John Willis, by the way, worked at Docker and Chef back then, and is a DevOpsDays coordinator after being at the original DevOpsDays in Ghent 2009 with Patrick Debois. If you only read one DevOps book, this is the book to read. They looked at companies that have adopted DevOps and documented what did work and what did not work. It's a great read.

**2019 — 10 years of DevOpsDays**

Come 2019, 10 years after the first DevOpsDays in Ghent, Belgium, 60+ DevOpsDays events were held in 21 countries.

Patrick Debois led DevOpsDays from its inception in 2009 until 2014, and then Bridget Kromhout became the lead in 2015. She is also the co-host on the very popular podcast, Arrested DevOps. If you don't listen to it, you should. She stepped down in 2020 but stayed on the advisory board of DevOpsDays with Patrick.

The individuals mentioned above are some of the major influential people in the early DevOps movement. They weren’t the only ones, but they went out and made a difference. They showed us how DevOps can be impactful.

Source:

* EverythingDevOps

<https://everythingdevops.dev/a-brief-history-of-devops-and-its-impact-on-software-development/>