

CI/CD



WHAT IS CICD?

Continuous integration, delivery and deployment (CI/CD from here on in) are DevOps practices. In other words, they are techniques that implement the DevOps ideals. If you're unfamiliar with the term you may be wondering: what exactly is DevOps? And how does it relate to Agile software development? Understanding the wider context of how software development practices have evolved and the problems that Agile and DevOps try to address can help you get more out of your CI/CD process.

CI/CD FUNDAMENTALS

- **A single source repository**

Source code management (SCM) that houses all necessary files and scripts to create builds is critical. The repository should contain everything needed for the build. This includes source code, database structure, libraries, properties files, and version control. It should also contain test scripts and scripts to build applications.

- **Frequent check-ins to main branch**

Integrate code in your trunk, mainline or master branch — i.e., trunk-based development — early and often. Avoid sub-branches and work with the main branch only. Use small segments of code and merge them into the branch as frequently as possible. Don't merge more than one change at a time.

- **Automated builds**

Scripts should include everything you need to build from a single command. This includes web server files, database scripts, and application software. The CI processes should automatically package and compile the code into a usable application.

CI/CD FUNDAMENTALS

- **Self-testing builds**

CI/CD requires continuous testing. Testing scripts should ensure that the failure of a test results in a failed build. Use static pre-build testing scripts to check code for integrity, quality, and security compliance. Only allow code that passes static tests into the build.

- **Frequent iterations**

Multiple commits to the repository results in fewer places for conflicts to hide. Make small, frequent iterations rather than major changes. By doing this, it's possible to roll changes back easily if there's a problem or conflict.

- **Stable testing environments**

Code should be tested in a cloned version of the production environment. You can't test new code in the live production version. Create a cloned environment that's as close as possible to the real environment. Use rigorous testing scripts to detect and identify bugs that slipped through the initial pre-build testing process.

CI/CD FUNDAMENTALS

- **Maximum visibility**

Every developer should be able to access the latest executables and see any changes made to the repository. Information in the repository should be visible to all. Use version control to manage handoffs so developers know which is the latest version. Maximum visibility means everyone can monitor progress and identify potential concerns.

- **Predictable deployments anytime**

Deployments should be so routine and low-risk that the team is comfortable doing them anytime. CI/CD testing and verification processes should be rigorous and reliable, giving the team confidence to deploy updates at any time. Frequent deployments incorporating limited changes also pose lower risks and can be easily rolled back.

BENEFITS OF CL/CD

- Reduced risk
- Shorter review time
- Smoother path to production
- Faster bug fixes
- Efficient infrastructure
- Measurable progress
- Tighter feedback loops
- Collaboration and communication