

DevOps Implementation Methodology 21/02/2017

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Table of Content

1.	1. Introduction	4
2.	2. Overview	4
	3. Key Challenges	
	4. DevOps Implementation	
	4.1 Continuous Planning	
	4.2Continuous Integration	
	4.3Continuous Testing	
	4.4Continuous Deployment	6
	4.5Continuous Monitoring and Feedback	
5.	5. DevOps Tools	7
	6. Business Benefits	
7.	7. References	8

1. Introduction

DevOps refers to the emerging professional movement that advocates a collaborative working relationship between Development and IT Operations, resulting in the fast flow of planned work (that is, high deploy rates), while simultaneously increasing the reliability, stability, resilience of the production environment.

2. Overview

In traditional functionally separated organisations, there is rarely a cross-departmental integration of these functions with IT operations. DevOps promotes a set of processes and methods for thinking about communication and collaboration between development, Quality Assurance, and IT operations.

To practice DevOps effectively, software applications have to meet a set of Architecturally Significant Requirements (ASRs) such as deploy ability, modifiability, testability, and monitor ability. These ASRs require a high priority and cannot be traded off lightly.

Although in principle it is possible to practice DevOps with any architectural style, the micro services architectural style is becoming the standard for building continuously deployed systems. Because the size of each service is small, it allows the architecture of an individual service to emerge through continuous refactoring, hence reducing the need for a big up front design and allows for releasing the software early and continuously. **DevOps is the solution, not the problem!**

3. Key Challenges

DevOps and operations teams are under increasing pressure from tech-savvy, app-centric business users to collaboratively solve complex business problems with IT. Adding to the battle, the pursuit for the perfect synchrony between software development and IT operations is still ongoing, and striking the balance won't happen any time soon. New tools, technologies and processes change and grow at a problematic pace – leaving us with no option, but to accept and address all upcoming challenges. Teams must keep up the pace to succeed, but operations teams cannot handle it solo and must work closely with DevOps. The operations group is responsible to drive flawless, organisation-wide execution – this was a straightforward request when the systems were configured and maintained by operations. However, recently, development became more collaborative, with involved users demanding more, using the newest tools and making the process harder to manage.

4. DevOps Implementation

DevOps implementation follows a process of continuous planning, continuous integration, continuous testing, continuous deployment, continuous monitoring and feedback.

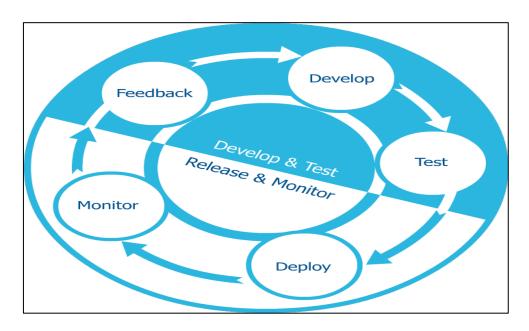


Figure 1: DevOps Life Cycle

4.1 Continuous Planning

The first step towards the adaptation of the DevOps philosophy is continuous planning. Continuous planning is done so that all stakeholders such as the developers, business analyst, testers, and operations team are brought into one common platform in the preparation of a release plan. Control on what gets into the pipeline translates to much better integration among the stockholders for better traceability in downstream development activities, including testing. Successful demand management ensures everyaspect of IT management, be it resource allocation, budgeting (release on release with strict timelines and meeting the release dates on time) or meeting market demand, are handled smoothly.

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4.2Continuous Integration

Continuous integration (CI) offers a real-time window into the actual state of the software system and associated quality measurements, allowing immediate and constant engagement of all team members, including operations and Quality Assurance, throughout the project lifecycle. CI is a form of extreme transparency that makes sure that all project stakeholders can monitor, engage, and positively contribute to the evolving software project without disrupting the team with constant status meetings or refocusing efforts.

4.3 Continuous Testing

Continuous testing is the process of executing automated tests as part of the software delivery pipeline to obtain immediate feedback on the business risks associated with a software release candidate. The goal of continuous testing is to apply 'extreme automation' to a stable, production-like test environments. Automation is essential for continuous testing. But automated testing is not the same as continuous testing. Automated testing involves automated, CI-driven execution of whatever set of tests the team has accumulated. Moving from automated testing to continuous testing involves executing a set of tests that is specifically designed to assess the business risks associated with a release candidate, and to regularly execute these tests in the context of stable, production-like test environments.

4.4Continuous Deployment

Continuous deployment can be thought of as an extension of continuous integration, aiming at minimising lead time, the time elapsed between development writing one new line of code and this new code being used by live users, in production. To achieve continuous deployment, the team relies on infrastructure that automates and instruments the various steps leading up to deployment, so that after each integration successfully meeting these release criteria, the live application is updated with new code. Instrumentation is needed to ensure that any suggestion of lowered quality results in aborting the deployment process, or rolling back the new features, and triggers human intervention.

4.5 Continuous Monitoring and Feedback

Continuous monitoring and feedback is proactively seeking information about the applications behaviour and perception by users. Behavioural feedback is attained through instrumentation of the application by DevOps teams and monitoring of the DevOps continuous feedback application in the production environment.

5. DevOps Tools

The DevOps landscape is quite expansive. The depth and breadth of tooling differs from company to company and according to their process. DevOps tools fit into one or more of these categories, which is reflective of the software development and delivery process. Following figure shows the list of tools in form of periodic table.

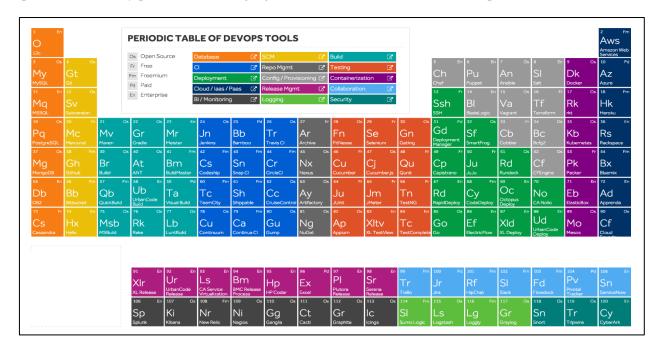


Figure 2: List of DevOps Tools

6. Business Benefits

Business benefits of DevOps are as follows:

- DevOps creates operational and business values by improving and accelerating delivery.
- DevOps is key enabler to provide the much needed industrialisation.
- DevOps is also key enabler for agile software development.
- DevOps establishes rigorous processes to help deliver predictable, agile, efficient and high quality outcomes at every stage of software development lifecycle.
- DevOps facilitates metric-driven feedback-loops to improve productivity.
- Automated tests execution (key requirement of DevOps principle) results into reduction of regression defects.
- DevOps leads to identification of security vulnerabilities at build time resulting in more robust and secure end product.

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7. References

Internet references were used for making this document. Following are the references used:

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https://devops.profitbricks.com/

https://www.devopsguys.com/blog/

Wikipedia

Thank You

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