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CSD 380

Assignment 1.2

Operation InVersion

The concept of technical debt is facinating. I have a background working in software development as a quality engineer packaging software to go live and I (and simultanously my colleagues) have felt the drag of technical un-advancement (for a lack of a better word) preventing deployments from happening. I just never knew there was a term for it. The unfortunate thing is that my team never felt there was a write time because we were always behind or we were wrong individuals to vocalize our concerns. The case study, Operation Inversion at LinkedIn (2011) is a wonderfual example of the benefits of recognize you have this technical debt growing in your organization and how to manage it.

For LinkedIn it appears that the building of their technical debt occurred due to its rapid growth. This may be a reoccuring factor for many organizations where innovation – a large selling point for investors and customers becomes the main focus. Since 2003, their Java Database Connectivty (JDBC) application manager, Leo was the organization and workhorse; and at some point it role was split but it’s underlying protocal of managing membership data was falling behind in management and updates and bandage together by adding memory. This is an interesting point inlign with the texts recognition of what causes technical debt, it’s the redirection of business interest in development and away from IT and service management.

In 2011, Kevin Scott, recognized that the unyielding culture of latenight work were the making something disastorously volatile for the company. And, for three months new features development was halted and site infrasture became the number one focus. From this comes several interesting points circling back to managing technical debt, which from the case stady was gained by an end-of-life application that was needing attention (but not enough) and dragging development down, but also from the promises of future features to the public because time would now be spent towards less profitable development.

The last point I think that is worth addressing is, Kevin Scott was the VP of Engineering. And for neerly a decade it still took somone in that type of leadership role to step-up to the business and say by taking this loss and focusing are attention on this we will save the company by eraticating this technical debt we’ve gained. And equally, it is unfortunate that it may have needed someones voice at that level for changes to be made.

References:

Kim, Gene; Humble, Jez; Debois, Patrick; Willis, John; Forsgren, Nicole . *The DevOps Handbook* . IT Revolution Press, LLC . 2021 . e-book