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Hi Everyone, I'd like to tell you about a workshop I've been running which turned out to be really engaging and interesting. I decided to go out and cascade this to other people who are passionate about DevOps. So I'll tell you all about the three ways of Gods, Reporters and Geniuses



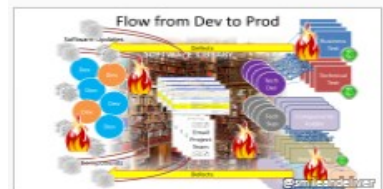
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Bit of Background - I've worked in Software Support and Delivery for most of my working life. I used to just stand here and say, let's do stuff but... better?



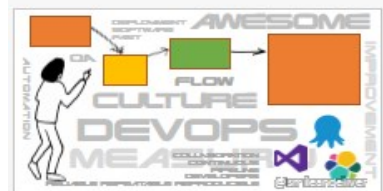
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I was struggling with how to make our deployments more reliable and less onerous, with better testing. All I knew is our department were doing it WRONG - evidenced by what happened when I mapped it out. We'd heard of Octopus Deploy; that sounded pretty good, so I asked around



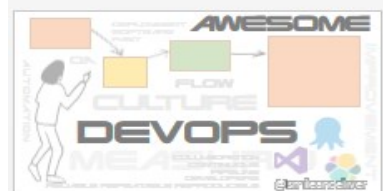
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Turns out our head of DevOps was the right person to talk to. He spent half an hour drawing boxes and arrows on a whiteboard and I was hooked. THIS was what I had been looking for. Not just a deployment tool but a whole Ethos. DEVOPS.



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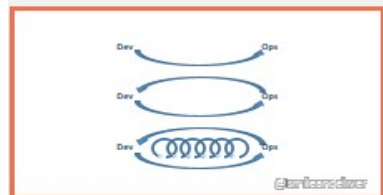
After that inspiring chat I joined his team! Soon, I couldn't shut up about DevOps. I came to DevOpsDays, read all the things... attended local meetups, etc. I watched our quality and frequency of deployments increase.



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One of the most inspiring things for me was the simplicity and good sense of the 3 ways. Because of this simplicity they leave a lot of space for thinking **creatively.

They were the catalyst for me to think differently about everything we were doing



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We were given the chance to spend some of this enthusiasm by talking to Leeds DevOps - We wanted to talk about DevOps Culture because at the time, most of the talks were about engineering aspects.



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We took a critical look at DevOps, in our own company and around the wider community. It was evident how good/how obsessed we've become with tools, and yet our thinking and behaviour had in some ways reverted; for example working in silos.



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We talked about needing to break out of the comfort zone, refocus on why we started our devops journey and the cultural aspects of it. we thought about how we could promote DevOps culture more and engage other colleagues, not just Dev and Ops



10 I got my first chance quite soon afterwards, to speak to Leeds Test Atelier. I thought, this is brilliant. Let's rope as many of these awesome test professionals into the DevOps culture as we can; do a bit of a workshop and get their take on it.

11 What is DevOps without Test? What on earth would we be increasing the flow OF? How can testers be left out of the discussion?
this workshop was born. I gave it the title "Testing IS DevOps".

12 I wasn't sure where to start so I just made some intro slides about the magic of DevOps and CALMS, all the while TRYING to find a way to present the 3 ways so effectively that everyone would have the same YES moment that I did and trigger that creative thinking.

13/ When I found appropriate images for my 3 ways slides, I realised (!)that these
14/ are not just 3 ways, they're like 3 different characters or personalities, looking at
15 the same thing and comparing notes. I felt that THIS might BE the hook that conveyed the three ways to any audience...

The idea of an unholy trinity of Gods, Reporters and Geniuses was born.

The First Way = Gods - Can see the entire system, good and bad and seek to improve it

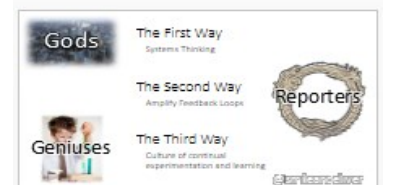
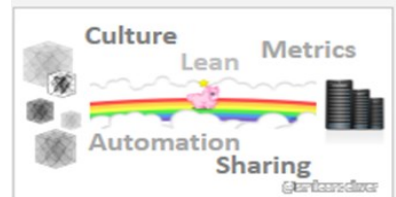
Second Way = Reporters - Driven to dig out the story and report it to the right audience at the right time

Third Way = Geniuses - passionate to continuously experiment and learn

16 The talk was really simple; just quickly went thro the Dev vs Ops problem to explain why DevOps came about, a bit of CALMS and our DevOps journey at TransUnion. The initial workshop attendees were mainly testers but also devs, ops and managers or consultants.

17 Then it was time to talk about the three ways. I alerted the participants that I was going to explain three underpinning principles of DevOps in terms of personalities and though you really need all THREE - for This exercise, they should pick the ONE that most appealed to them.

18 They divided themselves up pretty evenly between the three personalities and without getting too hung up on the detail, they just expressed all the new ideas they had, to drive their WAY, within their own work and systems. It went so well - everyone came up with such brilliant ideas.



¹⁹ I've subsequently run this with several other groups, including IT , security, architects, sales etc. (Some only had a total of 40 minutes, on other occasions 90.) Without fail, they were really engaged and in several cases, participants were still enjoying their new status as Gods, Reporters or Geniuses into the evening.

So please, download the workshop materials from my github, also linked from my twitter @smileanddeliver. Use, reimagine or rewrite as you see fit. Get the conversation going and let me know how you get along

