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Interview Tips and Hacks · DevOps · +8

## What are some good interview questions for a DevOps position?

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### 27 Answers



Saurabh Kulshrestha, works at Edureka

Updated Sep 19, 2017

I am listing down few DevOps interview questions, and I have categorized these questions on the basis of DevOps life-cycle.

### Generic DevOps Questions:

#### Q1. What is the need for DevOps?

According to me, this answer should start by explaining the general market trend. Instead of releasing big sets of features, companies are trying to see if small features can be transported to their customers through a series of release trains. This has many advantages like quick feedback from customers, better quality of software etc. which in turn leads to high customer satisfaction. To achieve this, companies are required to:

1. Increase deployment frequency
2. Lower failure rate of new releases
3. Shortened lead time between fixes
4. Faster mean time to recovery in the event of new release crashing

DevOps fulfills all these requirements and helps in achieving seamless software delivery. You can give examples of companies like Etsy, Google and Amazon which have adopted [DevOps to achieve levels of performance](#) that were unthinkable even five years ago. They are doing tens, hundreds or even thousands of code deployments per day while delivering world class stability, reliability and security.

*If I have to test your knowledge on DevOps, you should know the difference between Agile and DevOps. The next question is directed towards that.*

#### Q2. How is DevOps different from Agile / SDLC?

I would advise you to go with the below explanation:

Agile is a set of values and principles about how to produce i.e. develop software. Example: if you have some ideas and you want to turn those ideas into working software, you can use the Agile values and principles as a way to do that. But, that software might only be working on a developer's laptop or in a test

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You can summarize by saying Agile software development methodology focuses on the development of software but DevOps on the other hand is responsible for development as well as deployment of the software in the safest and most reliable way possible.

*Now remember, you have included DevOps tools in your previous answer so be prepared to answer some questions related to that.*

### Q3. Which are the top DevOps tools? Which tools have you worked on?

The most popular DevOps tools are mentioned below:

- Git : Version Control System tool
- Jenkins : Continuous Integration tool
- Selenium : Continuous Testing tool
- Puppet, Chef, Ansible : Configuration Management and Deployment tools
- Nagios : Continuous Monitoring tool
- Docker : Containerization tool

You can also mention any other tool if you want, but make sure you include the above tools in your answer.

The second part of the answer has two possibilities:

1. If you have experience with all the above tools then you can say that I have worked on all these tools for developing good quality software and deploying those softwares easily, frequently, and reliably.
2. If you have experience only with some of the above tools then mention those tools and say that I have specialization in these tools and have an overview about the rest of the tools.

### Q4. How do all these tools work together?

Given below is a generic logical flow where everything gets automated for seamless delivery. However, this flow may vary from organization to organization as per the requirement.

1. Developers develop the code and this source code is managed by Version Control System tools like Git etc.
2. Developers send this code to the Git repository and any changes made in the code is committed to this Repository.
3. Jenkins pulls this code from the repository using the Git plugin and build it using tools like Ant or Maven.
4. Configuration management tools like puppet deploys & provisions testing environment and then Jenkins releases this code on the test environment on which testing is do...

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Subodh Jain, Author - Getting Started with DevOps | Dev Manager at Veritas Technologies (2016-present)

Answered Jun 29, 2017

Here are some -

### DevOps Basics :

1. What is DevOps?
2. How DevOps can help?
3. What are some of the DevOps best practices?
4. What is Continuous Integration?
5. What is Continuous Delivery?
6. What is Continuous Deployment?
7. Provide Difference between Continuous Integration, delivery and deployment?
8. What role does SCM team plays in DevOps?
9. What role does QA team plays in DevOps?
10. What are the Benefits of Continuous Integration and Delivery?
11. What are the Core components of CI/CD?
12. Define a typical DevOps Work Flow
13. What may prevent 100% adoption of DevOps practices?
14. When to implement CI/CD?
15. What are the Common Practices for CI/CD?
16. What is ALM (Application LifeCycle Management)?
17. How do you do change management?
18. How do you handle the internal and external dependencies?

### DevOps Tools :

1. What are all major CI tools?
2. What are all Virtualization Tools?
3. What are all major Containerization Tools?
4. What are all major OS Installation Provisioning?
5. What are all major Configuration Management Tools?
6. What are all major Provisioning Tools?
7. What are all major Monitoring, Alerting, logging and Trending Tools?
8. What are all major Test Automation Tools?
9. What are all major unit testing Tools?
10. What are all major functional testing Tools?

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14. What all major Build Tools?
15. Provide list of most commonly used compilers?
16. Provide list of most commonly used scripting languages? Perl vs Python when to use what?
17. What all major Collaboration Tools?
18. What all major planning tools?
19. How you would be choosing the DevOps tools?

#### Virtualization :

1. What is virtualization?
2. Why virtualization is gaining popularity?
3. Provide Types of Virtualization?
4. What is Hardware or Server Virtualization?
5. Explain Network virtualization?
6. Explain Storage Virtualization?
7. Explain Application Virtualization?
8. What is ESX and ESXi? Explain the ESX architecture?
9. How to VM on ESXi server using vSphere client?
10. How to deploy a VM using template and CLI?
11. How you can automate the VM deployment in an ESX environment?
12. What are major Differences between ESX and Hyper-V?

#### Cloud :

1. What is "Cloud"?
2. What is cloud computing?
3. What are the important Characteristics of cloud computing?
4. How can you use the cloud?
5. What is SaaS (Software-as-a-Service)?
6. What is PaaS (Platform-as-a-Service)?...

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Amit Padwal, Conduct Android interviews. Ex-android developer with Java experience.

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engineer with a strategic understanding of tools, processes and utilization of technology, be assured that 2016 is going to be your year. According to Gartner, organizations around the world are increasingly adopting the DevOps culture and by the end of 2016, 25 percent of top global 2000 organizations would have adopted DevOps as a mainstream strategy.

Coming back to the question, here are a few interview questions which you must prepare for for your Devops interview :

1. How would you make software deployable?
2. How do you expect you would be required to multitask as a DevOps professional?
3. What testing is necessary to ensure that a new service is ready for production?
4. What's a PTR in DNS?
5. Describe two-factor authentication?
6. What are the advantages of NoSQL database over RDBMS?
7. What is an MX record in DNS?

These are just a few questions you can prepare for. Also, here's a list of top 30 devops interview questions and answers which might be helpful for you :

#### [Top DevOps Interview Questions You Must Prepare For in 2016](#)

Also, if you are looking to learn more about Devops, I would recommend you to go through some of the free resources on Devops.. Just listing out a few of them here for your reference :

#### [All You Need To Know About DevOps](#)

#### [DevOps Engineer Career Path: Your Guide To Bagging Top DevOps Jobs](#)

#### [Devops Online Training | Devops Certification Course | Edureka](#)

Hope this helps! All the best! :)

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Venkatesh Teeparti

Answered Apr 25

#### **DevOps Interview Questions and Answers**



DevOps is one of the common prevailing technology courses. There is an increasing market for DevOps Engineer job in technology organizations. Here

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On top of fluency in web languages so as Ruby, Python, PHP or Java, the ideal DevOps engineer should have any experience utilizing infrastructure automation devices similar Puppet, Chef, Ansible, SaltStack or Windows PowerShell DSC. After [DevOps Training](#) is a developmental strategy and not simply a collection of automation devices, companies believe about the essential interpersonal abilities that make DevOps practitioners successful. Cross-team interaction and collaboration policies may be troublesome to carry over the table, then professional competencies, though they're no less powerful.

### Top 50 DevOps Interview Questions and Answers Pdf

Often, these questions and thoughts are practiced in our periodic work. However, these are most valuable when an Interviewer is trying to test your deep experience of DevOps. You do not have to give time exploring [Chef DevOps Training](#) the Internet for DevOps interview questions. We have now gathered the file of the various popular and the advanced DevOps Interview questions. It includes questions that are beneficial for a beginner DevOps engineer to a senior DevOps engineer [Puppet Training](#). The difficulty level of question changes in the blog from Fresher to an experienced professional. In this blog, each question is followed by an answer. So you can save time in interview preparation.

1. Explain what is DevOps ?

**Answer:** It is a newly emerging term in IT field, which is nothing but a practice that emphasizes the collaboration and communication of both software developers and other information-technology (IT) professionals. It focuses on delivering software product faster and lowering the failure rate of releases. ( [Top 50 Devops Interview Questions and Answers Pdf](#) )

2. Mention what are the key aspects or principle behind DevOps?

**Answer:** The key aspects or principle behind DevOps is

- Infrastructure as code
- Continuous deployment
- Automation
- Monitoring
- Security

3. What are the core operations of DevOps with application development and with infrastructure ?

**Answer:** The core operations of DevOps with

#### Application development

- Code building
- Code coverage
- Unit testing
- Packaging
- Deployment

With Infrastructure

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- Configuration

- Orchestration
- Deployment

4. Differentiate between Asset Management and Configuration Management ?

**Answer:** Asset Management, broadly defined, refers to any system that monitors and maintains things of value to an entity or group.

- Configuration Management is the process of planning for, identifying, controlling and verifying the Configurations Items (CIs) within a service, recording their status and, in support of Change Management, assessing the potential IT impact of changing those items.

5. Explain which scripting language is most important for a DevOps engineer ?

**Answer:** A modest scripting language will be beneficial for a DevOps engineer. Python resembles to be quite successful.

6. Explain how DevOps is helpful to developers ?

**Answer:** [DevOps](#) can be helpful to developers to fix the bug and implement new features quickly. It also helps for clearer communication between the team members. [Learn Devops Training Online](#) From Real Time Experts

7. List out some popular tools for DevOps ?

**Answer:** Some of the popular tools for DevOps are

- Jenkins
- Nagios
- Monit
- ELK (Elasticsearch, Logstash, Kibana)
- io
- Jenkins
- Docker
- Ansible
- Git
- Collectd/Collectl

8. Mention at what instance have you used the SSH ?

**Answer:** I have used SSH to log into a remote machine and work on the command line. Beside this, I have also used it to tunnel into the system...[\(more\)](#)

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Nilesh Nimkar, 15 years in (Interactive Data, DB, Bridgewater, Barclays, BoA, ML, UBS, Oracle)

Answered Mar 29, 2016

Edit: My most favourite Devops question. Leave your answer in the comments. Do not look up the answer on Quora. No cheating. And yes there is a right and a

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Here are some of my favorite questions that I ask in no particular order. One thing that I always do is I ask the person to rate himself/herself on a scale of 1-10 in any given technology and then ask questions at that level. So the questions end up over a wide range and the person in front always gets the benefit of doubt.

## OS

- 1) What is the difference between Linux and Unix ?
- 2) What's a KVM ?
- 3) How would you make sure a service starts on an OS of your choice ?
- 4) Here's a terminal. What flavor of Linux is running ?
- 5) Write a command to delete all empty file under a directory.
- 6) Kill all the procs by a particular user without using pkill
- 7) What is Active Directory ? How do you make a server join a domain ?

## Networking

1. What is the difference between TCP and UDP ?
2. What is ICMP ? Why should you block it ?
3. What is IPv6 ? Why should we care ?
4. In a corporate environment users from London can ping a particular server but users from New York cannot, what steps will you take to troubleshoot the problem ?
5. What steps are needed to change the hostname on a Linux machine ?
6. Where is the hostname file on a Windows server ?
7. How is a hostname resolved on a Linux machine ?
8. What's a SSL tunnel ?
9. What's a SDN ?

Scripting (questions here vary on rating and depend pretty much on telling the person to write a short script)

1. What is your favorite scripting language ? Why ?
2. What are design patterns ?
3. Describe some scripts you have written/automation you have done/ programs you have written. Justify your choice of scripting language and design patterns.
4. Can you port the same script to another language ? On another OS ?
5. How long would it take you to learn another language ?

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1. How would you trace a binary deployment back to the source code ?  
How would you structure such a build ?
2. How do you manage dependencies ?
3. CI can only be used to find compile time errors quickly. True/False.  
Explain.
4. How would you structure CD for an app that depends on 3 other apps ?
5. How do you plan capacity for your CI/CD servers ?
6. All your built binaries should be checked in to your git/svn for quick deployment and posteriority. True/False. Explain.

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That's all I can think of right now. I will keep updating these as I think of more questions and topics.

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Brian Wagner, I have been doing DevOps for almost 20 years even though it's only been around 6

Answered Oct 13, 2014

Originally Answered: DevOps: What are some good interview questions for dev ops position?

Here are my suggestions for some sample questions. You and your team need to determine what a correct answer means:

What DevOps is?

Ask them how they would communicate a change if no procedures existed?

Ask them which is more important to the success of any DevOps community:

- How people communicate or the tools that you choose to deploy?

Order the following types of tools in the order they should be deployed when starting a DevOps Practice:

- Monitoring(Nagios, Zenoss, Etc)
- Configuration Mgmt(Puppet, Chef, SaltStack,Ansible)
- Wiki and or a Bug Tracking tool(MediaWiki, Bugzilla,etc)
- Continuous Integration/Deployment Tools(Jenkins, TravisCi,etc)

Hopefully that's enough to get your thought processes moving...

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Acton Michelle

Answered Feb 1

### Q1. What do you know about DevOps?

**A1.** Your answer must be simple and straightforward. Begin by explaining the growing importance of DevOps in the IT industry. Discuss how such an approach aims to synergize the efforts of the development and operations teams to accelerate the delivery of software products, with a minimal failure rate.

## Q2. Why has DevOps gained prominence over the last few years?

**A2.** Before talking about the growing popularity of DevOps, discuss the current industry scenario. Begin with some examples of how big players such as Netflix and Facebook are investing in DevOps to automate and accelerate application deployment and how this has helped them grow their business. Using Facebook as an example, you would point to Facebook's continuous deployment and code ownership models and how these have helped it scale up but ensure quality of experience at the same time. Hundreds of lines of code are implemented without affecting the quality, stability, and security.

Your next use case should be Netflix. This streaming and on-demand video company, follows similar practices with fully automated processes and systems. Mention the user base of these two organizations: Facebook has 2 billion users while Netflix streams online content to more than 100 millions users worldwide. These are great examples of how DevOps can help organizations to ensure higher success rates for releases, reduce lead time between bug fixes, streamline an

## Q3. Which are some of the most popular DevOps tools? Do you have experience working with any of these tools?

**A3.** The more popular DevOps tools include:

- a. Selenium
- b. Puppet
- c. Chef
- d. Git
- e. Jenkins
- f. Ansible
- g. Docker

Want to master all these DevOps tools?

Thoroughly describe any tools that you are confident about, what it's abilities are and why you prefer using it. For example, if you have expertise in Git, you would tell the interviewer that Git is a distributed Version Control System (VCS) tool that allows the user to track file changes and revert to specific changes when required. Discuss how Git's distributed architecture gives it an added edge where developers make changes locally, and can have the entire project history on their local Git repositories, which can be later shared with other team members.

Now that you have mentioned VCS, be ready for the next obvious question.

## Q4. What is version control and why should VCS be used?

**A4.** Define version control and talk about how this system records any changes made to one or more files and saves them in a centralized repository. VCS tools will help you recall previous versions and perform the following:

- Go through the changes made over a period of time and check what

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• Examine issues or errors that have occurred due to a particular change.

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Using VCS gives developers the flexibility to simultaneously work on a particular file and all modifications can be logically combined later.

**Q5. Is there a difference between Agile and DevOps? If yes, please explain.**

**A5.** As a DevOps engineer, interview questions like this are quite expected. Start by describing the obvious overlap between DevOps and Agile. Although implementation of DevOps is always in sync with Agile methodologies, there is a clear difference between the two. The principles of Agile are associated to seamless production or development of a piece of software. On the other hand, DevOps deals with development, followed by deployment of the software, ensuring faster turnaround time, minimum errors, and reliability.

If you are preparing for senior DevOps roles, prepare for these specific Chef DevOps interview questions.

**Q6. Why are configuration management processes and tools important?**

**A6.** Talk about multiple software builds, releases, revisions, and versions for each software or testware that is being developed. Move on to explain the need for storing and maintaining data, keeping track of development builds and simplified troubleshooting. Don't forget to mention the key CM tools that can be used to achieve these objectives. Talk about how tools like Puppet, Ansible, and Chef help in automating software deployment and configuration on several servers.

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