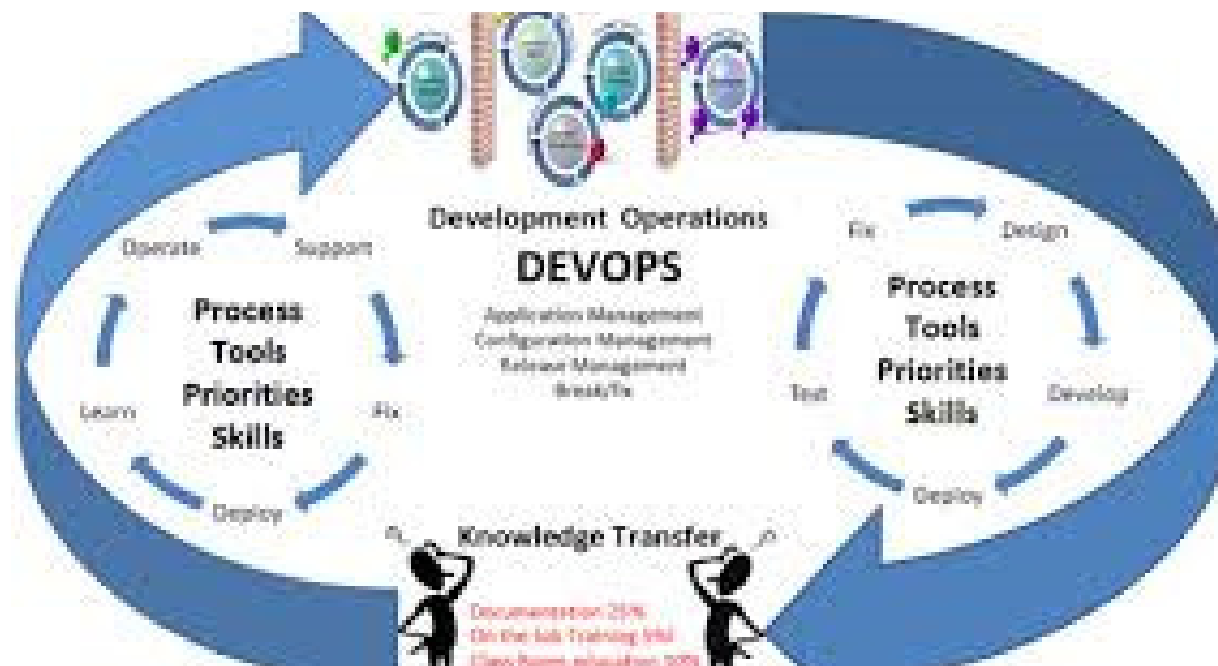




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The Meteoric Rise of the DevOps Movement

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Fast-paced innovation in technology is highly dependent on organization and infrastructure capabilities of an organization. Information Technology leaders such as CIO continue to look for new ways to innovate, reach levels of higher performance, while building sustainable technology departments.

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to a continual frustration: a lack of collaboration and communication between development and operations on software projects that increase the time and labor involved in delivering and maintaining software systems" (p. 5). There have been incredible results for companies that embrace the DevOps culture, and have the ability to utilize the latest automated deployment tools.

So what does DevOps mean? The term refers to Development plus Operations or Development and Operations. The synergistic interactions of both the departments working closely together produce better outcomes including improved camaraderie and teamwork, faster time to market, Agile development, higher quality software and improved operational support of products launched. Not only are technology leaders such as Facebook, Twitter, Etsy, AirBnB and Uber embracing DevOps, but also government agencies such as the USCIS are embracing DevOps practices to accelerate results. In the recent Agile 2015 conference, Marc Schwartz, CIO of the USCIS discussed how he streamlined the complex process and paperwork involved with the immigration processes using DevOps, and the results were phenomenal. Executive leaders such as are discovering that relational leadership, which is a way to observe the world and a set of practices for interpreting, communicating and coordinating actions can help support DevOps teams, and the practices and principles can also be applied to other DevOps teams.

The key performance indicators (KPI) of DevOps include the following:

1. Deployment Frequencies and Speed
2. Improved Failure Rates
3. Faster Recovery Time



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One of the great features of DevOps is that the focal point is to align the goals of operations and development, turning them into a set of shared results for the organization. However, not only does DevOps rely on quantitative measures, but also on qualitative areas such as cultural values. Kim (2014) writes:

We are often trapped in low-trust, command and control cultures that reinforce fear, preventing experimentation and innovation. Over decades, this has led to an order taking malaise present throughout our industry - so much that in IT, we often call the organizations we serve as the business - as if we were merely a service provider, instead of a critical part of how value is delivered to customers (p. 3).

Thus, the realization of a DevOps environment is dependent on leaders ensuring that the cultural foundations are in place for the organization in order to fully realize the value that DevOps can bring to the organization. DevOps people talk about the CAMS of DevOps, which is an acronym for Culture, Automation, Measurement and Sharing.

CAMS helps teams embrace the DevOps culture by improving collaboration, communication, and coordination while reducing risk of failed deployments among different functions in the organization, and coupling with best in breed tools such as New Relic, Electric Cloud and other fast deployment tools. However, without the proper culture and mindset the DevOps movement in the organization will fail to thrive as tools alone cannot create a successful DevOps organization.

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Kiran Sankara

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With the launch of new SAFe 4.0, DevOps changed alot. PDCA at Iteration level and program level made all the teams come together to do either do a team demo or system demo or solution demo at the end of iteration or PI increment. Solution intent, Solution context and Solution demo are game changers. Continuous Cadence and Synchronization reduces ...see more

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Hello Kiran, Great post - the launching of SAFe 4.0 further synchronizes the activities between Development and Ops. Now, how do you believe SAFe 4.0 can synchronize activities at the portfolio, program and project levels - thoughts?

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Sonia Gupta, MS, MBA, PMP, SCPM, CSM

Head of Enterprise PMO at YapStone

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