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Category – DevOps

Sub-category - DevOps with SAFe

Nurture SAFe Delivery in DevOps Culture

What is SAFe:

Those familiar with **SAFe** would know that it divides the work of building a system into small time-boxed units. Each unit must typically be deliverable in around two weeks.

Let's suppose the item search feature is tiny enough to be implemented in a couple of weeks and can therefore be considered a unit (or **'iteration'** in **SAFe** parlance). The system would be the sum of several similar units, each capable of being implemented in a couple of weeks. Typically, one would assign the units to various teams, and schedule them based on their inter-dependencies and various staff, infrastructure, and other resource constraints. This composite set of small units is called a **'program'** in **SAFe**.

What is The DevOps culture:

The **SAFe** methodology requires that each unit be made *usable* within the two week interval. That is, the unit must be developed and deployed to a production-like environment. The **'agile team'** creating the unit must therefore have an **'end-to-end'** perspective of the unit and not be constrained by artificial boundaries of development, testing, or operations. The members should have the skills, and be willing to work in each other's domains, collaborate actively, communicate frequently, and provide feedback quickly and clearly.

This active collaboration between developers, testers, and operations is what **DevOps** is about. An organization that has a **DevOps** culture will therefore find it easier to implement **SAFe**.

Problem Statement

General problem faced while using SAFe is interdependencies between the teams consumes more time than calculated, specifically between development team and system team or deployment operations team.

Solution

See how we can solve this problem.

Take an example of the development team triggers regular build to test environment, 2 days before end of sprint for QA acceptance. And we found that Test environment is responding very slowly and not able to perform deployment.

With SAFe practice, Dev team is going to send mail or communicate the problem to Ops team, or by raising a Jira or incident to Ops team. But Ops team accept that ticket at low priority as there is high priority production deployment for previous sprint work going on.

Now problem remains as it is, how to resolve Test Env issue?

When we develop DevOps culture within team, dev team can work collaboratively with Ops or system team to understand the problem and getting into problem resolution as associate to Ops team.

Certain steps to clean up the test environment can be understood by a developer or dev team and they can try that steps to get that env up, instead of waiting for Ops team to work on that ticket, Dev team can work on that ticket and deploy their work on test env with some efforts.

Now questions arises is that environment issue is so frequent, and it takes much time of Dev team.

To tackle this issue we need to bring DevOps fully in SAFe delivery. To be continued....

