BLOG SERIES: DEVOPS FOR THE ENTERPRISE

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The latest trends in software development and IT operational management point to the growing demand for faster, more agile, and higher quality technical work at a reduced operational cost. This is not a new set of requirements so much as it is a change in focus on what outcomes we're driving toward – agility over precision in long-term (12-24 months) planning. As IT solutions grow more complex and the business drivers guiding our work continue to evolve, teams in medium to large enterprises have had significant difficulty reconciling policies with new technologies. Implementing a DevOps strategy is a shift in mindset for most enterprise teams, but leveraging the flexibility of this workflow benefits not only the health of the system but also the productivity of the team. Executing with AWS acts as a force multiplier for people, budget, and technology, and adds enormous potential for massive benefits at both the bottom and top lines.

To summarize, DevOps-focused approaches improve the velocity and quality of an enterprise IT organization, allowing IT teams to be more responsive to internal customer demands which inherently

improves responsiveness to external demands.

How? At the heart of DevOps is how people interact and work within the gated and hand-off based processes for handling software releases and the operational management of those systems. These processes are inherently flawed, cleanly bisecting the teams with direct and material knowledge of the software from those who are experts in system administration. Process misalignment due to this common pattern can easily be the source of frustration and resistance between teams. This necessitates a better and more integrated way of accomplishing the same end result faster, with fewer defects and far less heartache.

To be clear, DevOps is a set of concepts rather than a concrete means of running a software development lifecycle (SDLC) or application management lifecycle (ALM) process. The concepts found within the DevOps community offer a unique perspective and, with thoughtful consideration and planning, help enterprises improve the ability of their technical teams to quickly meet the needs of the business. The DevOps concept defines the ways in which the various roles in a technical organization interface and behave in order to achieve a full lifecycle management process that encourages and allows for ownership from all team members.

DevOps is an ever-evolving and complex topic. To better understand how DevOps can be implemented successfully in an enterprise environment, this series will break down and explore the following themes and challenges:

- The evolution from project management toward DevOps
- Team structuring and positioning
- Aligning and structuring projects
- DevOps in the cloud

By implementing a DevOps-based process, businesses can achieve faster time to live, fewer defects, and faster system recovery time via repeatable, consistent, collaborative, and automated workflows. This pattern gives teams the ability to be more nimble and responsive to the needs to the business.

With that, we'll begin our series of blog posts focused on DevOps where we'll explore the science and the art behind it. Get ready for a cross-cutting approach to the theory and best practices for organizing teams, application artifacts, and technology processes for teams looking to achieve DevOps 'escape velocity'. Check back for updates and more advice for enterprises looking to establish and manage a DevOps team within their organization.