Dynamics of Devops Culture Development in the IT Industry

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Abstract: The article is devoted to the analysis of the dynamics of the DevOps culture in the IT industry, emphasizing the relationship between the technological, organizational, and cultural aspects of this process. The key components of the DevOps culture are considered, including automation, continuous integration, continuous delivery, and interaction between different departments. Special attention is paid to how DevOps helps accelerate development processes and operations, as well as improve software quality and customer satisfaction. The problems faced by organizations in implementing the DevOps culture and strategies to overcome these problems are analyzed. The results of the study show that the successful adoption of DevOps requires significant changes in organizational culture, including leadership, training, and support for change.

Keywords: DevOps, IT, modern technologies, digitalization, programming, DevOps culture development.

Introduction

In recent years, technological architecture has undergone significant changes, which has stimulated innovation and led to a rethinking of traditional methods of competition among companies. One of the most notable currents in this context is DevOps, which represents a cultural and methodological innovation in information technology. DevOps, which emerged at the intersection of Development and Operations, grew out of a desire to improve collaboration and communication between these two traditionally separate groups. This approach emphasizes continuous integration, continuous delivery, and process automation to improve the efficiency and speed of software product development.

The DevOps culture itself, which brings together development and operations teams, is becoming an integral part of the IT infrastructure, helping to accelerate the release of software products, improve their quality, and reduce costs. With the growing competition in the technology market, companies are increasingly facing the problems of integrating DevOps practices into their processes, which requires significant changes in the organizational structure and approaches to project management. The relevance of this topic stems from the need to thoroughly understand the impact of DevOps on the efficiency and adaptability of IT teams and to develop strategies for successfully implementing this culture to achieve sustainable growth and innovative development.

1. Background

The origins of DevOps run deep, starting with the first DevOpsDays conference in Ghent in 2009, initiated by Patrick Debois. Since then, DevOps has come to embody the principles of agile development and agile management, including the use of automation tools such as Chef, Puppet, and Jenkins. These tools allow developers to accelerate the deployment and management of applications, enabling smoother and more synchronized operations.

The essence of DevOps is not just about tools and processes, but also about a culture of continuous improvement and enhancement. Adopting monitoring and logging practices helps teams track performance and identify potential for further improvements. This encourages a culture of iterative development where feedback can be acted upon quickly and adapted to changing requirements.

The value of DevOps is felt on many levels, from improving collaboration between developers and operations teams to speeding up time to market and improving product quality. It is an approach that transforms not only technological processes but also corporate culture, making it more agile and adaptive to ever-changing market conditions [1].

DevOps also affects the application lifecycle throughout the planning, development, delivery, and operations phases. Each stage is dependent on other stages and stages are role-independent. The language and regional DevOps parameters include all roles in each stage to some extent. Figure 1 shows the stages of the DevOps application lifestyle [2].
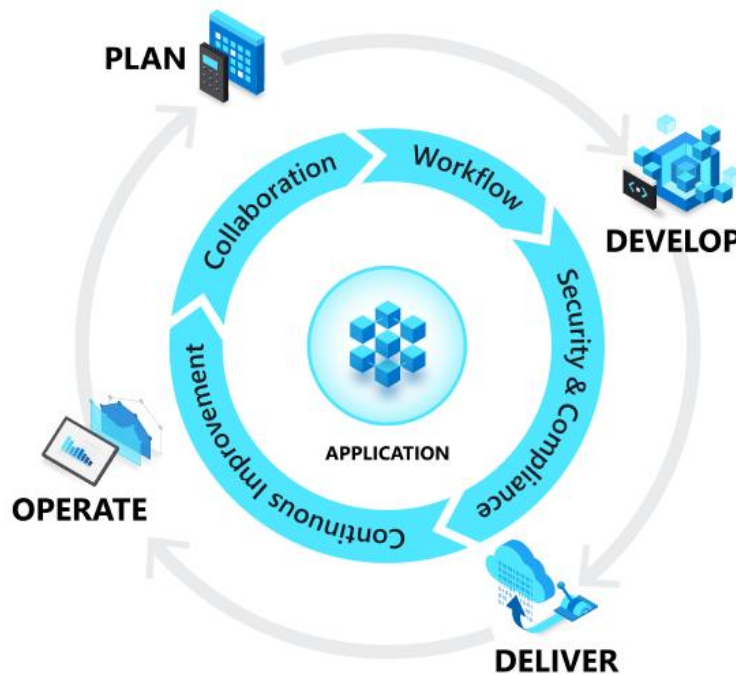
Figure 1. The stages of the lifestyle of a DevOps application[2].

This methodology emphasizes process automation, continuous monitoring, and active use of feedback to facilitate continuous and efficient product delivery. DevOps cultivates a culture that allows developers to remain agile and responsive to user requests while ensuring systems are stable and secure.

DevOps project managers argue that collaboration between developers and operations teams should be maximized to overcome existing barriers. This approach enables the creation of high-quality applications and services that are not only more reliable but also more responsive to customer needs [3].

2. Components of DevOps

DevOps culture is based on several fundamental principles and practices that ensure its success (Table 1.)

Table 1. Components of DevOps.

Component	General Characteristic
Collaboration and Communication	In the context of DevOps, it is critically important to establish close interaction between developers, operations teams, and other stakeholders. This allows continuous optimization of workflows, actively identifying and resolving issues, as well as promoting the exchange of knowledge and experience.
Automation	In DevOps, automation plays a key role, allowing teams to minimize manual labor in areas such as code testing, deployment, and infrastructure management. This leads to a reduction in errors and an increase in overall productivity.
Continuous integration and continuous delivery(CI/CD)	This is the foundation of DevOps, implying continuous merging of code changes and their automatic deployment. It ensures the speed of product releases, shortens feedback loops, and allows rapid adaptation to customer needs.
Infrastructure as Code (IaC)	IaC transforms infrastructure management, enabling the definition and control of infrastructure through code configurations. This ensures consistent, scalable, and repeatable infrastructure management.

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Monitoring and Feedback	DevOps emphasizes the importance of real-time monitoring of applications and infrastructure for immediate detection and resolution of issues. Feedback loops play a crucial role in the continuous improvement of processes and systems.
Continuous Learning and Improvement	In the culture of DevOps, there is a commitment to constant learning, innovation, and improvement. This includes experimenting with new ideas, risk-taking, and using feedback to optimize processes.

Based on the data presented, it can be said that DevOps is not just about adopting certain tools or technologies but is a shift that encourages collaboration, establishes common goals and focuses on creating value for customers. Organizations adopting a DevOps culture can streamline product delivery processes, accelerate time to market, improve product quality, and ultimately achieve a competitive advantage [4].

Next, let's look at the advantages and disadvantages of DevOps adoption (Table 2.).

Table 2. Advantages and disadvantages.

Advantages	**Disadvantages**
The main advantage of implementing DevOps culture is the optimization, frequency, and high quality of the released software. This not only helps increase the productivity of organizations but also improves employee satisfaction. As noted in the work "Accelerate: Building and Scaling High-Performance Technology Organizations," DevOps helps build high levels of trust and collaboration, which, in turn, leads to more thoughtful decision-making and improved job satisfaction.	Regarding the problems of implementing DevOps culture, it usually requires significant changes in the approaches and work of both individuals and teams, which, in turn, need support at the highest management level. Initiatives often become critical for obtaining support from senior management and starting transformation within DevOps. One of the most effective ways to convince of the necessity of widespread DevOps implementation is to demonstrate success in small teams or individual employees.
Adapting to DevOps culture is key to creating high-performance engineering structures while not diminishing employee satisfaction. For engineers, nothing is more motivating than the ability to frequently and easily deploy stable and highly efficient software that meets user needs. For managers, business metrics improve significantly.	Developing high levels of autonomy and trust, characteristic of DevOps culture can be difficult if there is a history of conflict between participants or teams. If teams were initially uncoordinated, establishing connections can be especially challenging.
Changes can be difficult even in harmonious conditions, especially if the advantages of changes are not formulated and understood. Organizations with strong engineering cultures often focus on tools and technologies to solve business problems. Although some tools and technologies support the transition to DevOps, changing tools without cultural changes are sometimes called "DevOps cargo cult," as it looks like the desired goal but does not address the underlying problems.	

3. Recommendations for implementation

The most important aspect is open communication: programmers writing code and system administrators responsible for its deployment and support should actively interact to improve efficiency.

It's also important to change attitudes toward bugs. In many organizations, there is pressure to never make mistakes, which can stifle innovation and the adoption of new approaches. DevOps tends to emphasize "mean time to recovery" (MTTR) instead of "mean time between failures" (MTBF), which allows focusing on fixing problems quickly, not just preventing them.

DevOps culture encourages what's known as "flawless retrospection," where teams analyze performance at the end of sprints or projects in an open and supportive environment, discussing successes and opportunities for improvement.

Developing a DevOps culture requires rethinking established processes. This means programmers and operations teams must collaborate throughout the project lifecycle, abandoning the practice of "throwing code over the wall." Important components are continuous integration and continuous delivery (CI/CD) and, in some cases, continuous deployment, which is practiced by companies like Netflix for frequent updates in a production environment.

Continuous deployment includes mechanisms, such as feature flags or dark deployment, that allow limiting the visibility of new features to end users until they are fully tested and approved. This supports flexibility and responsiveness to market needs.

It is also important to equip teams with the appropriate tools to support DevOps, including automated systems for version control, issue tracking, and application monitoring. Software that supports CI/CD is key to providing fast feedback and effective change management during development [5].

Conclusion

Thus, the study demonstrates that DevOps culture plays a key role in today's IT industry by enabling better collaboration between development, operations, and other departments. Developing a DevOps culture leads to an increase in the speed and quality of software production, as well as an improvement in the overall level of customer satisfaction. However, successfully integrating and sustaining a DevOps culture requires organizations to make profound changes in management approaches, communication, and learning processes. It is these changes that enable companies to excel in the competitive IT environment. The article highlights the importance of continuous adaptation and innovation in organizational culture approaches, which is key to the successful implementation of DevOps principles.

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