Welcome to DevOps for Developers. This book discusses approaches, processes, and tools for optimizing collaboration between software development and operations and bringing Agile approaches to all parts of the streamlined software delivery process.

This chapter provides all the necessary information to help you understand what DevOps is and how you can proceed in this area based on this understanding. This chapter will explain the natural conflicts that exist between development and operations and where DevOps can help address those conflicts. It will explain the history and movements that have influenced DevOps as well as the perspectives and activities that comprise DevOps. In addition to exploring the core concepts underlying DevOps, we will also explore what DevOps is not.

For now, however, we will begin by presenting the definition of DevOps.

The Definition of DevOps

Isolated aspects of DevOps have been well known for years, whereas others are new. However, no unified term exists that encompasses all of the aspects of DevOps. The term DevOps is widely used these days, and many different types of content are associated with it.

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1 http://twitter.com/devops_borat/status/52857016670105600.
As you read these chapters, keep in mind that many different definitions of DevOps exist and that this book delivers one specific definition, which approaches DevOps from the developer perspective. This book will show that DevOps is really a mix of well-known, advanced practices and new, innovative approaches to common challenges in project life software delivery and operations.

Note This book primarily targets developers. Be aware of the fact that the term developers does not only refer to testers, programmers, and quality assurance experts. Rather, the “one team approach” (which I’ll introduce in this book) also includes experts from operations who develop, for instance, scripts or “infrastructure as code.”

The term DevOps is a blend of development (representing software developers, including programmers, testers, and quality assurance personnel) and operations (representing the experts who put software into production and manage the production infrastructure, including system administrators, database administrators, and network technicians). DevOps describes practices that streamline the software delivery process, emphasizing the learning by streaming feedback from production to development and improving the cycle time (i.e., the time from inception to delivery; see more about this process in Chapter 3). DevOps will not only empower you to deliver software more quickly, but it will also help you to produce higher-quality software that is more aligned with individual requirements and basic conditions.

DevOps encompasses numerous activities and aspects, such as the following:

- **Culture**: People over processes and tools. Software is made by and for people.
- **Automation**: Automation is essential for DevOps to gain quick feedback.
- **Measurement**: DevOps finds a specific path to measurement. Quality and shared (or at least aligned) incentives are critical.
- **Sharing**: Creates a culture where people share ideas, processes, and tools.

**WHAT DOES THE TERM DEVOPS MEAN?**

The term DevOps is a blend of development and operations.

The term DevOps did not come about overnight. Instead, many movements and people have influenced the development of DevOps, which we’ll explore next.