

Deployment.Everywhere

Interview with David Brauneis

TRANSCRIPT

In order to have a competitive advantage, you have to be able to deliver functionality to the market quicker than your competitors and at a better quality than your competitors.

One area I think businesses can focus on to improve their agility is to look at that communication between the development and operations organization and how they can optimize it.

The IBM Deployment Planning and Automation Solution helps to bridge the gap between development and operations, or what we call Collaborative DevOps.

Today, what we typically see is that me, the developer, I write an e-mail telling the operations team member with a series of screenshots of the administrative interface as I have entered data in it. That person then opens up that e-mail--they start going through the screen captures--Then manually keying in the data.

And we have seen that at customers, as much as 10% of their failures have been the result of mis-keyed in information. The other thing we see is that over the life of an application, the configuration changes. And occasionally, we'll see places where the application works fine in the earlier and then has catastrophic failures or massive performance problems when they get moved into production.

A retailer that I worked with had two data centers, one on the East Coast of the U.S and one on the West Coast, and they had the same application deployed. And in the East Coast, it ran fine. And on the West Coast, they were suffering excessive memory usage problems that were taking down the application about once every 15 minutes -- and it was costing them hundreds of thousands of dollars per minute it was down.

So a lack of tooling that can help them provide those changes in a consistent fashion really leads to a lot of these configuration drift scenarios. So how would you do this using the IBM Deployment Planning and Automation Solution?

First of all, someone in the development organization would go into Rational Software Architect to plan or model what the deployment configurations will look like... and then have those structured elements from it be able to be conveyed to other people who wouldn't have to re-key in the information but could use a tool that just pulled that information from the structured format that it comes in... and that same tool could also look at the configuration and say, "Tell me if these are the same before I make the changes to it."

The automation part of the solution is realized by the Rational Automation Framework, which really provides us the ability to automate the configuration changes and application deployments to a series of different middleware environments.

And the benefits we really see to this are it can speed up the time to deploy. But what really is the benefit to me is you now make consistent process for doing it, and you have that audit record around it, and you have the artifacts under governance.

As an example, an IBM client in the insurance sector was faced with a challenge of a sprawling number of environments to manage and deployments to do and we need to make it easy for people to deploy these applications and configurations into the environment. And the solution they built was around the IBM Deployment Planning and Automation Solution, and we saw that they reduced about 90% of the time it took for them to do manual deployments and replication of those environments.

The IBM Deployment Planning and Automation Solution really helps ensure that we're delivering consistent and repeatable functionality to deploy multiple new versions of applications more quickly without the risk to the configurations and the risk of outages.