

Deploying Often



About Me

- Doing agile since 1999
- Start ups / Enterprises
- Planigle - Consulting and Training
- Qcue – VP, Engineering



Case Study: Qcue

- SAAS
- Small team (DevQAOps)
- Deploy every weeknight (for 2 years)
- Automation and monitoring are key
- Lots of small issues
- Few big issues



Agenda

- Why do it?
- Prerequisites
- Getting Good At It



Value Before Continuous Deploy

- A lot of the literature focuses on going “all the way”
- You get a lot of value before that
- And it is much easier!



Customer Benefits

- Can turn around fixes / small features quickly
- Able to give feedback incrementally



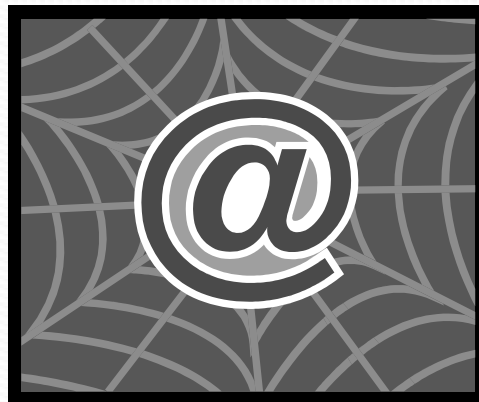
Engineering Benefits

- Easy to narrow down what caused the problem
- Easy to fix
- Known stability



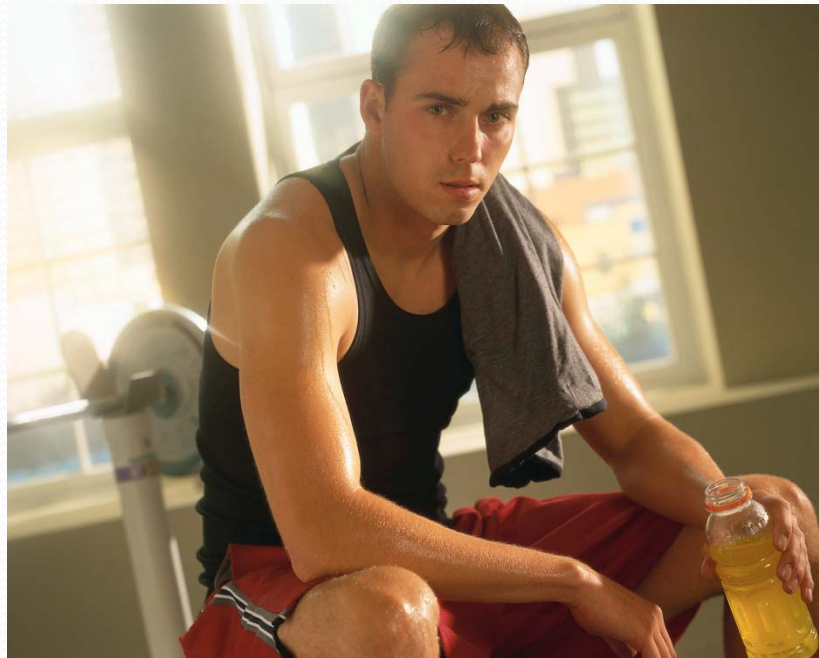
What if I don't do SaaS?

- Deploy to an internal server instead
- Use data typical of production
- QA, Prod Mgmt, etc. can use it
- Everything else can still apply



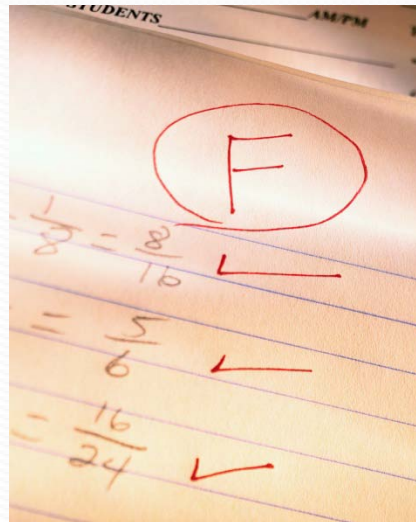
Downsides

- Every deploy can crash and burn
- Have to be vigilant
- If done poorly, can spend all your time recovering



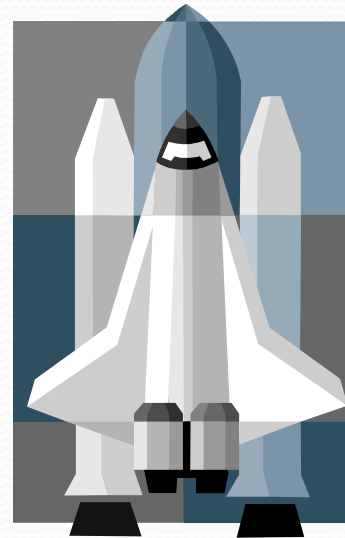
Prerequisites – Testing

- Unit tests
- Integration tests
- Ability to see what it will look like in production



Prerequisites – Deployment

- Automated build
- Notification on failure
- Promote last build that passes



Prerequisites – Monitoring

- Web site / User monitoring
- Application / Guts monitoring
- Log monitoring



AppDynamics

APPLICATION MANAGEMENT FOR THE CLOUD GENERATION

Prerequisites – Processes

- What if deployment fails?
- What if your server crashes?
- What if data is corrupted?
- What if a critical error gets deployed?



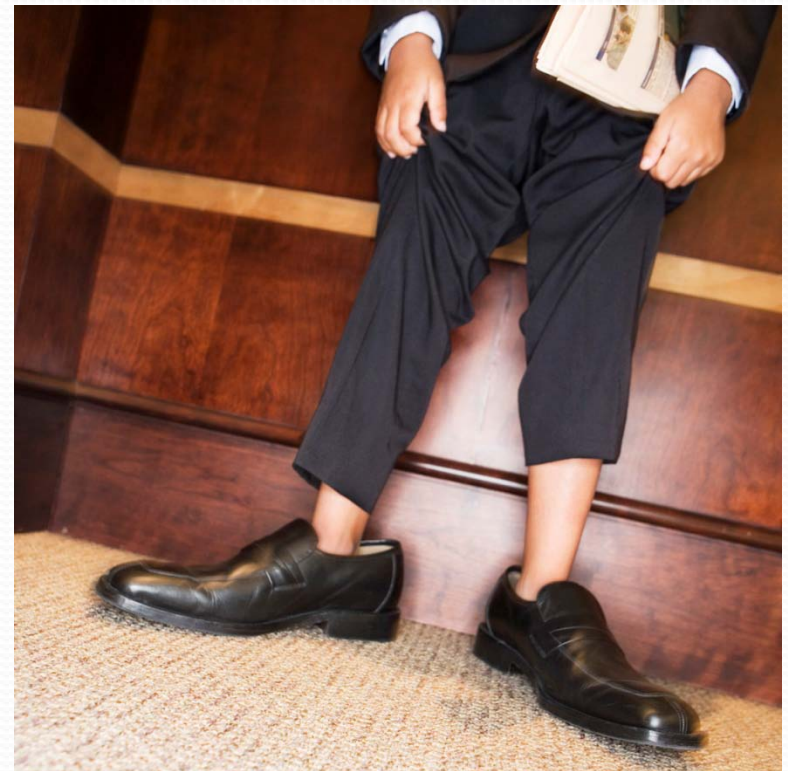
Getting Good At It / Tips and Tricks

- Defects are the first priority
- Identify / fix the root cause
- Identify / repair holes in testing / monitoring
- Small stories help
- Code reviews / pair programming
- Retrospect often and change
- Don't be disruptive
- Communicate early and often!



What if it is TOO BIG?

- Break into increments
- Make it admin only
- A few customers at a time



What if it is too risky?

- Identify risky areas
- Vary process by riskiness
- Anyone can block the deploy



Messaging to Customers

- Release and Marketing can be distinct
- Fine grained vs. large grained communication



Resources

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