## Continuous Delivery: Tools, Collaboration, and Conway's Law

Matthew Skelton, Skelton Thatcher Consulting QCon London 2015, Weds 4th March



#qconlondon





Collaboration Tool Automation Learning Singleton tools Conway's Law



#### Matthew Skelton

@matthewpskelton



- Building & operating software systems since 1998
- Cybernetics + Neuroscience + Music
  - -> control engineering
  - → psychology
  - > 'network' and group interactions



# SKELTON THATCHER EFFECTIVE SOFTWARE OPERATIONS



#### Recent clients

Legal Travel booking

Payments Financial services

Tourism Healthcare data

Betting



#### Common themes

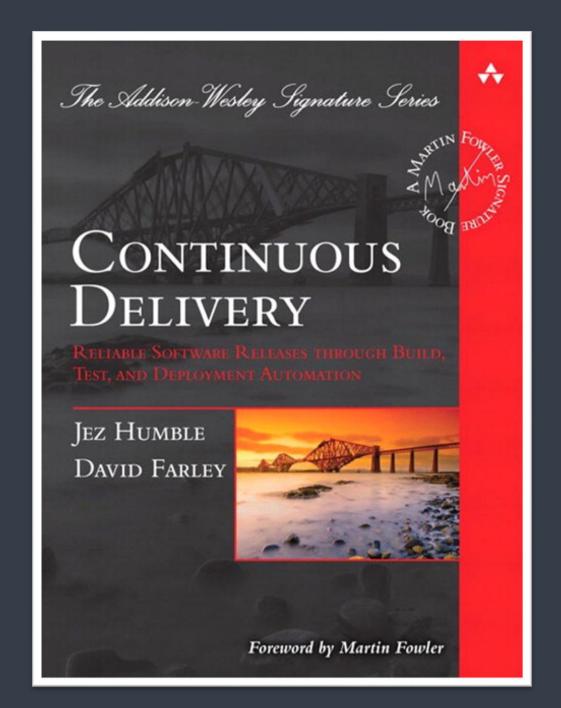
- •Online since ~1999
- Successful in their sector
- Large, central core database(s)
- Non-aligned team goals
- Ops historically undervalued
- Need to adopt DevOps and Continuous Delivery



#### Common needs

- Technology selection ticklists
- Team interactions
- Collaboration opportunities
- Tools as catalysts











We must continue to care after deployment

Continuous **Evolution** of software systems

Small changes
High quality
Operationally excellent
Engaged teams
Focus on value
Use flow



Delivery \( \neq \text{ Deployment} \)

Empower product & commercial people to make features available at the right time

Pull, not Push



Regular, rapid, repeatable, reliable changes

Automate most of the things



Quality

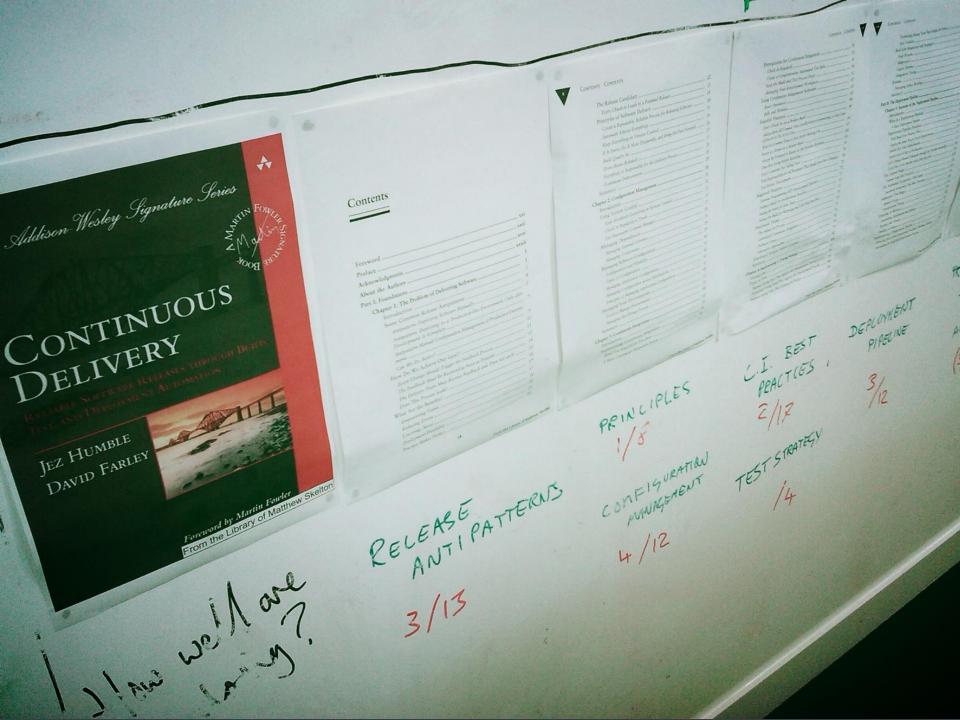
Safety

Reliability

Psychology

Effectiveness





## DevOps

"Highly effective, daily collaboration between software developers and IT operations people to produce relevant, working systems" \*

\*also QA/Testing, IT Service Desk, Programme Management, Commercial, Marketing, etc.



## Not DevOps

"Automation"
"Build & Release"
"Infrastructure Development"
"System Administration"
"Containers"





## Collaboration



## 1. Version Control



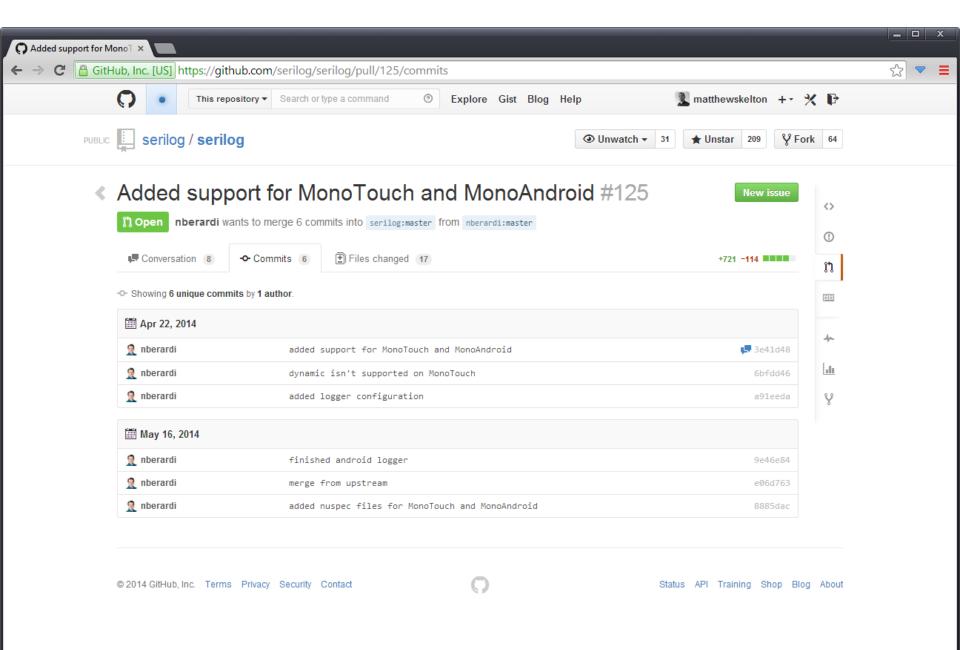


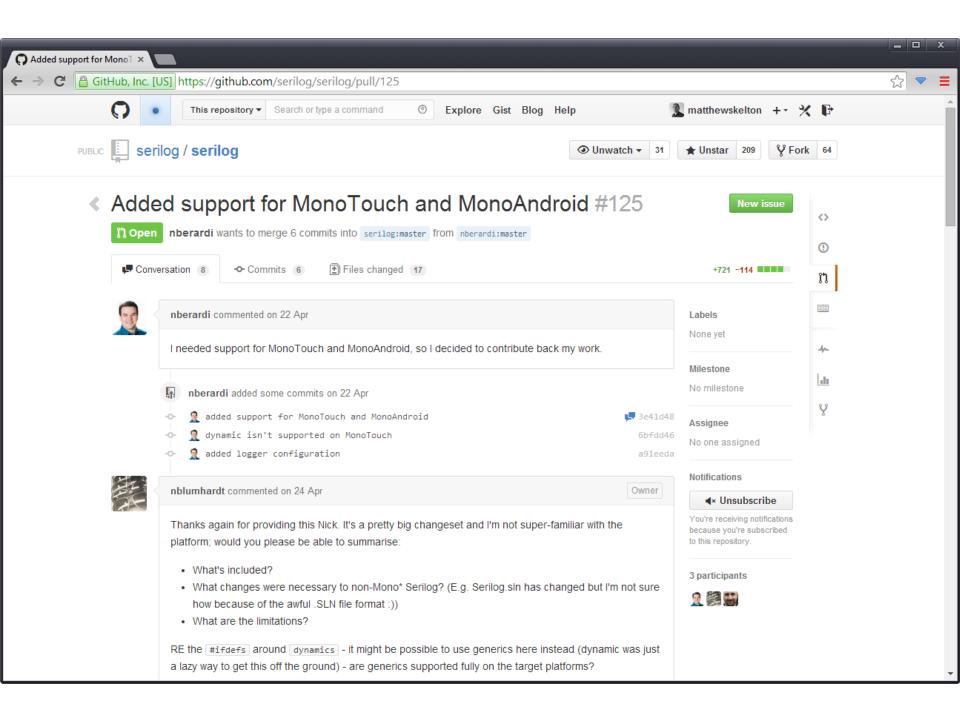
```
_ 🗆 X
* commit d390108866e6cba8374129c494355319d047da64 (HEAD, origin/master, origin/HEAD, master)
Author: Matthew Skelton <
Date: Sun Jun 22 18:36:51 2014 +0100
     Changed website email address to enquiries (so we can distinguish inbound emails)
website/http_root/index.html
 commit bfdb0ddcc7372108ed06b071a7a0de5395f3ff30
 Author: Matthew Skelton <
 Date: Sun Jun 22 18:25:01 2014 +0100
    rec
* commit 78f8e78c6d130d588c5c4db724d6a21a215b173a
 Author: Matthew Skelton
Date: Sun Jun 22 18:18:25 2014 +0100
     Added phone number to website
website/http_root/index.html
website/http_root/skeltonthatcher.css
 commit ed03a982cf604c3de0b98f659c19bcf4c9d0f8af
 Author: Matthew Skelton <
 Date: Sun Jun 22 15:04:13 2014 +0100
     对的是是"TV A CONSTRUCTION (A)
 commit c66775f56b6228d4b4da7e045968f19a96362746
 Author: Matthew Skelton <
 Date: Wed Jun 18 13:02:13 2014 +0100
```

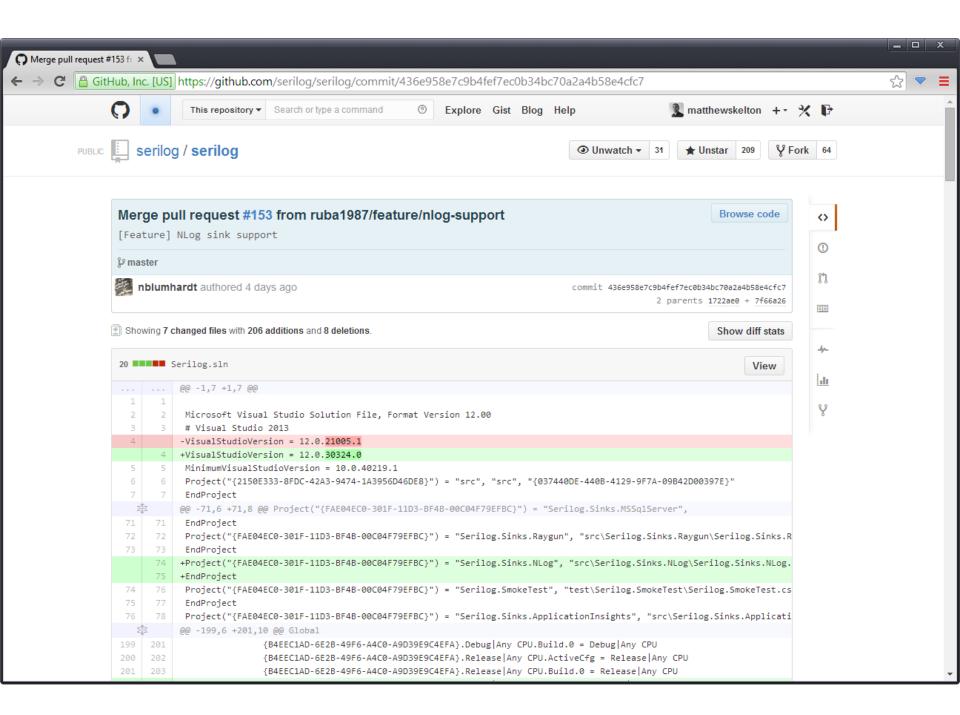


```
commit 6d396b3b40998527fc7fef9ae131176324250d40
     Author: agilestevesmith <steve
Date: Mon Jun 16 16:38:51 2014 +0100
                  Steve - update notes
manuscript/steve-smith.txt
     commit fbe2f7e1f66d85727df80b9474c7031453e186b3
Author: agilestevesmith <steve
Date: Fri Jun 13 11:19:50 2014 +0100</pre>
                 Steve - toggle all contributors off until first draft received
manuscript/Book.txt
manuscript/glossary.txt
            commit 6169236c84d076aa7a4e41ca5a717a2be4159fcf
            Merge: 9351fd3 9747eab
           Author: agilestevesmith <steve
Date: Thu Jun 12 10:10:41 2014 +0100
                       Merge branch 'master' of here will be a possible of the possib
                 commit 9747eab6246824a7d882c97ee1726a08134550f2
                  Merge: 3calela 22832ae
                 Author: Matthew Skelton <matthew.skelton@
                  Date: Wed Jun 11 13:25:42 2014 +0100
                             Merged: Tweaks to summary to clarify purpose - "build and operate software" - and no dodgy space chars
            * commit 22832aea4f02b1f454821a399be0ac233f42987a (origin/matthewpskelton, matthewpskelton)
                 Author: Matthew Skelton <
                  Date: Wed Jun 11 11:27:09 2014 +0100
                             Removing spurious space characters
summary.txt
```









# 2. Deployment Pipeline



# A large online retailer

- Travel sector
- Since ~1999
- UK market
- 'Non-core' applications

# Challenges were:

- Limited Git skills in Service team
- Manual deployments
- 'Snowflake' servers
- No Cl
- Risks: security, automation, etc



## What we did

- Built a walking skeleton pipeline
- Modelled security roles and stages
- Included manual steps (at first)
- Walked people through steps
- Finally: opened firewall so everyone could see the UI

### Results

- Security: happy
- Service team: relieved (& happy)
- Developers: won over (& happy)
- Business: surprised (& happy)

# 3. Log Aggregation



# Log aggregation & search

ElasticSearch+ LogStash+ Kibana / NewRelic / LogEntries / Stackify

(In Production, Pre-Prod, Test)

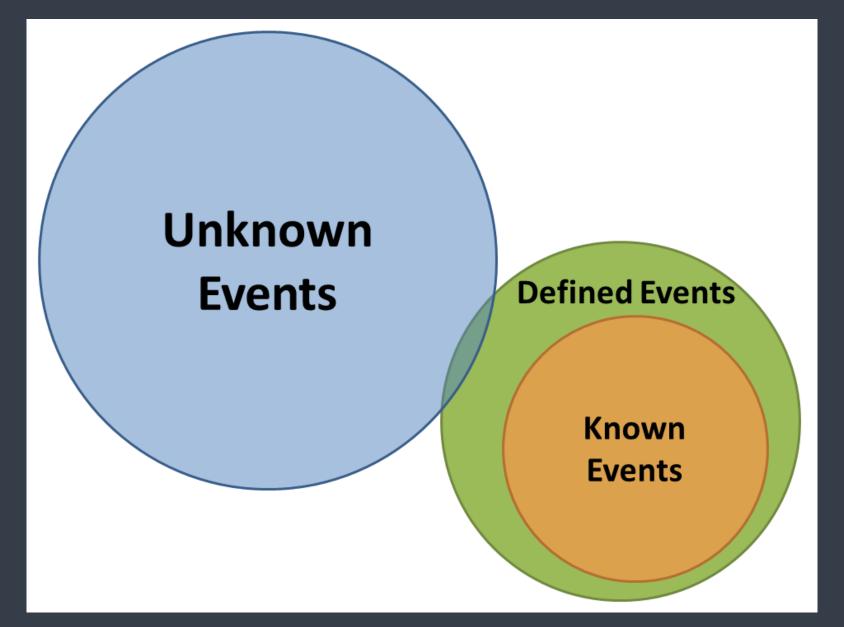
On developer machines!!!



## Event type IDs

How many discrete states exist in your application?







# Event type IDs

### enum

Human-readable sets: unique values, sparse, immutable

C#, Java, Python, node (Ruby, PHP, ...)



```
public enum EventID
       // Badly-initialised logging data
       NotSet = 0,
       // An unrecognised event has occurred
       UnexpectedError = 10000,
       ApplicationStarted = 20000,
       ApplicationShutdownNoticeReceived = 20001,
       PageGenerationStarted = 30000,
                                                    Technical
       PageGenerationCompleted = 30001,
       MessageQueued = 40000,
       MessagePeeked = 40001,
                                            Domain
       ItemAddedToBasket = 60001,
       ItemRemovedFromBasket = 60002,
       CreditCardDetailsSubmitted = 70001,
```

ItemAddedToBasket = 60001





# Distributed systems

Monolith to microservices: debugger does not have the full view



# Remote debugging?

Even with remote debugger, it's boring to attach and detach

(but... Glimpse)





#### Analysis

@message •

Custom

□ Columns

@source host

@source\_path

@timestamp

role source host

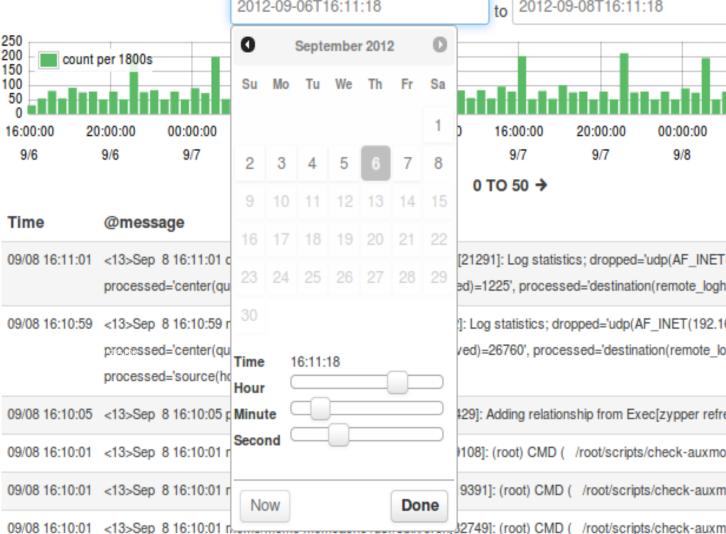
@tags

@message @source

- @source ▼
- @source host ▼
- @source path ▼
- @tags ▼
- @timestamp ▼
- @type▼

pid ▼ program role ▼

source host ▼



09/08 16:10:01 <13>Sep 8 16:10:01 mem2/mem2 memcache /usr/sbin/cron[21891]; (root) CMD ( /root/scripts/check-auxm

20:00:00

9/7

00:00:00

9/8

# Log aggregation & search

Good logging is good communication

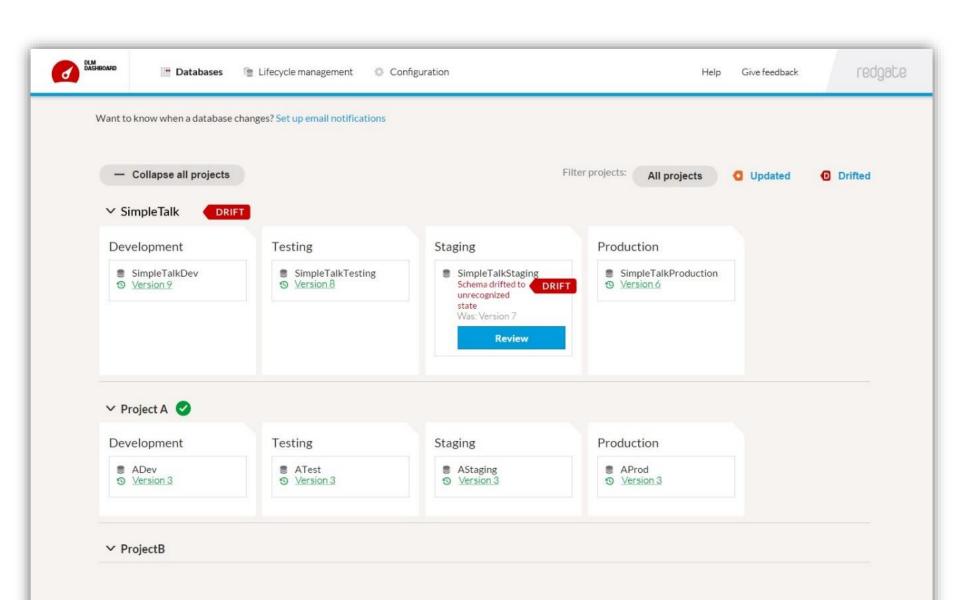
ELK and other log aggregation tools can build Dev + QA + Ops collaboration





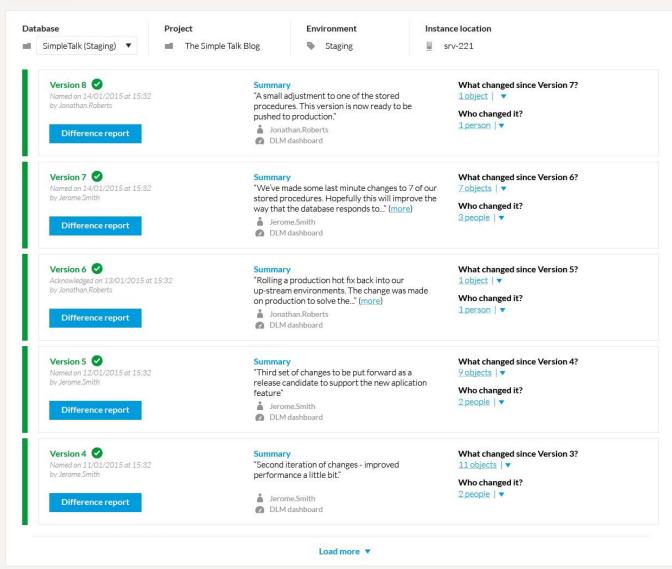
## 4. Detect Database Drift







#### Database history > SimpleTalk (staging) history



# Collaboration & tool choice

Value collaboration as a key criterion
Orthogonal to main tool purpose (?)
"How does this tool help people to
collaborate?"



## Automation



# Tooling & APIs

- Prefer SaaS to begin with
- API for:
  - Important state changes & actions
  - Import/Export
  - Trigger
  - Alerting
  - . . .



# Tooling Automation

- Avoid manual configuration of tools
- •Install via packages
  - RPM, APT, Gems, Chocolatey
- Configure using Chef/Puppet/Ansible/DSC/etc.
- •Insist on APIs



### Tool Automation

Point-n-click is no longer acceptable

Choose tools that expose APIs

Aim for composition of new capabilities

Build and deployment are first-class concerns

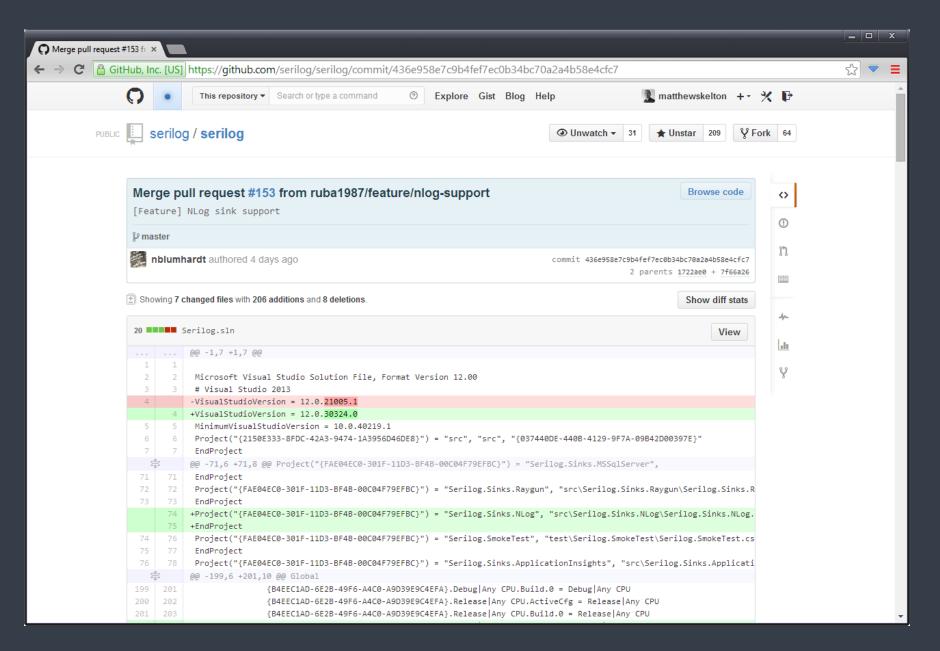


# Learning













# Learning & tool choice

Bring people with you

Appreciate current skills

Prefer achievable gains now

Avoid fear of too-scary tools



# Singleton tools

(or the 'Prize Bull' approach)





# Singleton tools

Special database server

Costly log aggregation

Costly monitoring

Server configuration tooling

...only in Production





## "Better features"?

Optimise globally across the teams that need to collaborate



# Singleton tool

Breaks feedback (learning) loop from Production

Makes CI/CD more difficult

Underestimates value of collaboration and learning



# Conway's Law



# Mel Conway, 1968

"organizations which design systems ... are constrained to produce designs which are copies of the communication structures of these organizations"

http://www.melconway.com/Home/Conways\_Law.html



# Ruth Malan, 2008

"if the architecture of the system and the architecture of the organization are at odds, the architecture of the organization wins"

http://traceinthesand.com/blog/2008/02/13/conways-law/

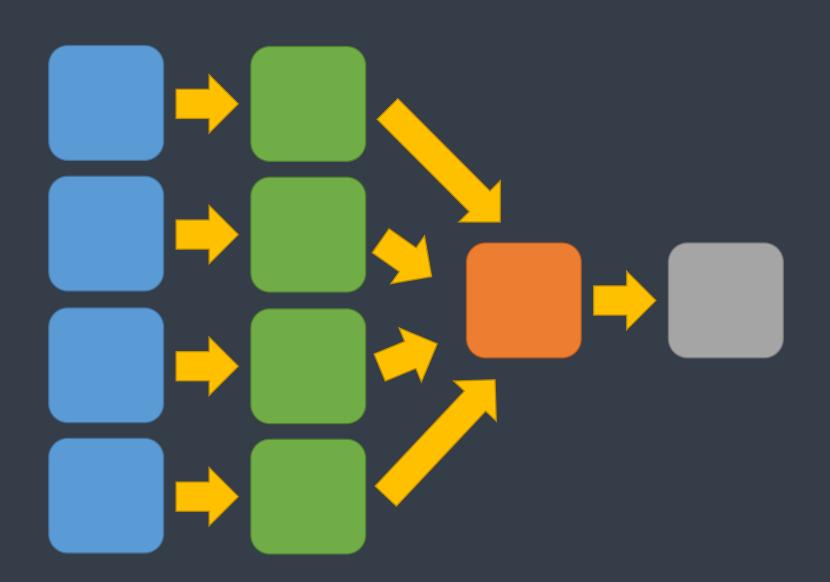




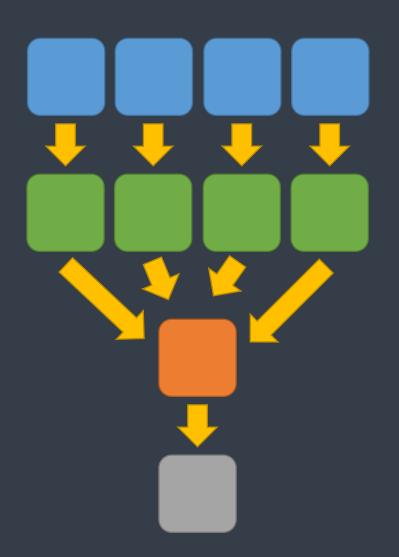




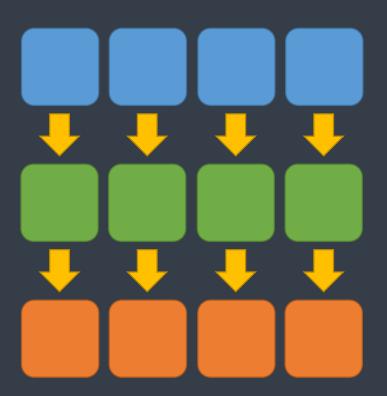




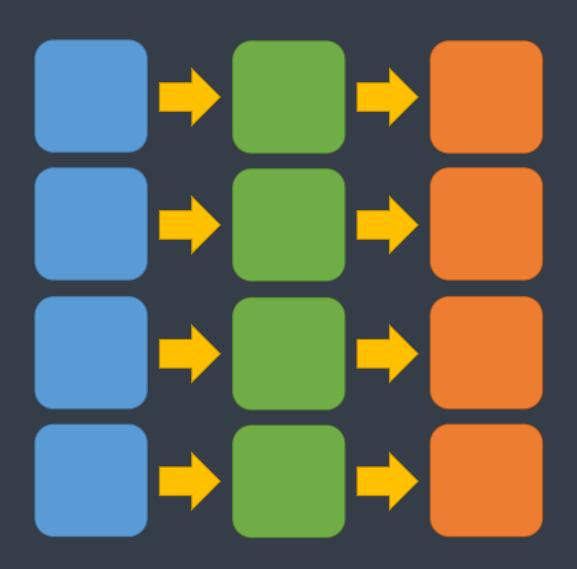




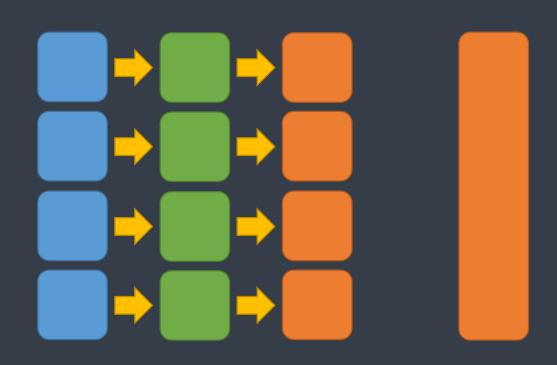














## Team Topologies

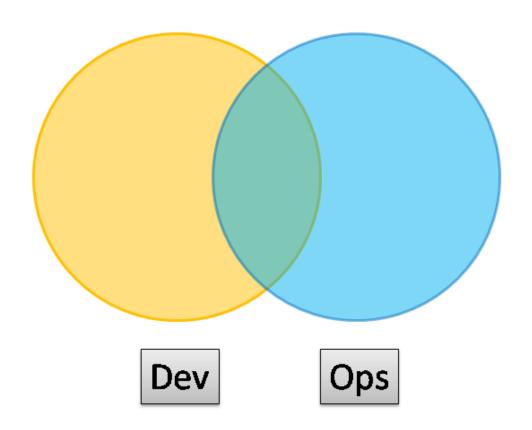
topology: the study of places

Team Topologies:

study of the placement of teams (responsibilities, communication, shape)

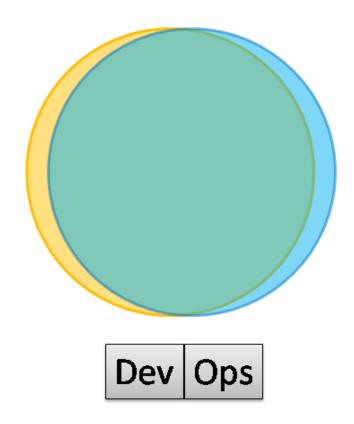


### Type 1 – Smooth Collaboration



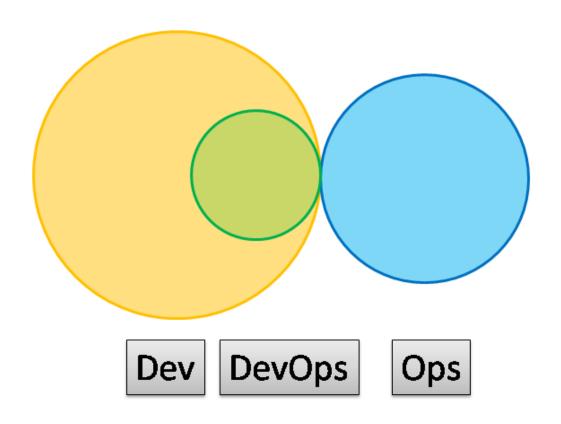


### Type 2 – Fully Embedded



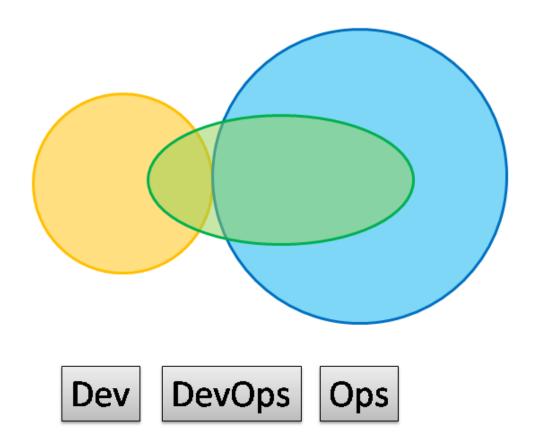


### Type 3 — Infrastructure-as-a-Service





### Type 4 – DevOps-as-a-Service





## Conway & Tool Choice

See the whole organisation as a system that we're building
Separate tools for separate teams
Shared tools for collaborative teams

http://bit.ly/DevOpsTopologies







# How to choose tools for Continuous Delivery and DevOps

Value collaboration aspects
Insist on APIs and scripted deployments
Avoid a learning mountain: evolve tooling
Avoid Production-only tools
Consider Conway's Law



## Further reading

Build Quality In build quality in .com



70% of royalties donated to Code Club

Discount for #qconlondon:

http://leanpub.com/buildqualityin/c/qconlondon2015

Six contributors from QCon London 2015 speakers:

- Dave Farley
- Rachel Laycock
- Amy Phillips
- Anna Shipman
- Matthew Skelton
- Philip Wills

- + 14 more



## Further reading



DZone 2015 Guide to Continuous Delivery

http://bit.ly/DZoneCDreport

### Conway's Law & Continuous Delivery

Allan Kelly - @allankellynet



 London Continuous Delivery meetup group – January 2014

https://vimeo.com/channels/londoncd







We help you to transform your technology and teams for the cloud



## Thank you

#### matthewskelton.net / @matthewpskelton

HT: @Squire\_Matt, @alan\_parkinson



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