

Michael Jenkins

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Next Craft in 2018

Senior Systems Engineer at The Walt Disney Company at The Walt Disney Company



Talk

Injecting Modern Concepts into Legacy Processes

Friday 15:40 - 16:25

Topics:

Soft Skills

Project Management

Technology Debt

DevOps

Automation

Level:

General

Your rating:

0/5

Technologists are keen to stay up to date on modern technologies. They've deployed apps in containers, used modern automation tools, and launched servers in the cloud. These exercises are often done in development environments, though, instead of in production.

Usually, this is because there's a gap between the processes that keep the production environment online and modern tools and methods. "If it works, don't change it" is the mantra they may be working under. As a result, production systems may run on aging platforms that are managed with manual, time consuming processes.

In this talk, I will discuss ways that developers and system administrators can bridge the gap between legacy systems and modern techniques. The several techniques I will describe will help confident devs and admins introduce the idea of modernization, flesh out those ideas into proofs of concept, and deploy to production environments successfully.

The core of my presentation is based on experience gained while working managing high traffic, public facing web sites for Toyota (toyota.com) and United Business Media (modernmedicine.com). I will also refer to recent texts and studies on modernizing legacy hardware and software.

For example, I'll discuss how I worked with developers and management to take a web application deployment from manual and error prone to a one-click automated, predictable process.

This talk falls into the "Engineering Soft Skills" category and will focus on techniques used in communication, planning, and project management; when needed, specific technologies applied to a particular situation will be mentioned.

After attending this talk, participants will take away ideas and tips they can share with their peers and management to gradually update the software and systems that they work with.

About

Over the past 20 years, Michael Jenkins has worked with a variety of technologies including integrated circuit design and infrastructure automation. Recently, Michael has worked to automate operations for high-traffic websites in a variety of industries including automobile sales, life sciences, and pharmaceuticals. Michael is an AWS Certified Solutions Architect at the Associate level and is also versed in other cloud technologies.

Michael also enjoys journalism and serves as a contributing editor for Blacks In Technology (blacksintechology.net) and Women in Linux (womeninlinux.com).