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Best Practices Briefing

Infrastructure Automation at Scale

One of the greatest ways to improve productivity in any business function is to minimize spending time and resources on problems that have already been solved. Infrastructure Automation is one of the greatest ways to accomplish that goal in the IT enterprise. However, delivering on that promise and its associated business value is something few organizations have achieved at scale.

Almost every IT team has a person or two that is skilled at automation and uses it in their role. Often, seeing success achieved by one leads to others learning and adopting it for their work with varying levels of proficiency. The logical next step for many organizations is to try to implement automation at the team level. This is where automation's effectiveness starts to diminish and momentum slows due to ineffective tooling, vendor interoperability challenges, and political obstacles. Most initiatives stall or plateau and then are abandoned altogether when the most proficient team members move on to other roles or leave the organization. This does not have to be the case.

Modern automation technologies are catching up with the promises automation evangelists have promised for almost two decades. By starting with the right foundation, accompanied with experienced coaching, and a strong vision, an automation program can accelerate initiatives, improve availability, provide professional growth and improve quality of life for the entire team.

DISCUSSION FRAMEWORK:

1. Introduction: Keys to Achieving Success at Scale with Infrastructure Automation Projects

- Moving from pockets of automation to an effective integrated automation program
- Why it is difficult to implement automation at scale and is it worth the investment
- Keys to designing and delivering automation that teams will actually use
- Changing the culture of automation as a career adversary to a career enhancer

2. Key Considerations for Implementing Infrastructure Automation Across an Enterprise

- Knowing and discovering assets and configurations
- Establishing dependencies with proper visualization to assist the team
- Importance of establishing a single sources of truth
- Creating the map to the future state vision at a reasonable cost

3. Principles of Platform Engineering: Moving from system engineer to service delivery teams

- How to take individuals with automation knowledge and build an effective and scalable automation team
- How to turn your CMDB from foe to friend
- Deciding on closed or open system approach to discovery and automation
- How to keep your baseline models up to date as they evolve
- Expanding capabilities from setup automation to operational automation
- Applying code review disciplines to Infrastructure Automation
- Manage by outcomes not by syntax and accelerate delivery of resources requested by the business with less risk of unintended configuration errors

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

This goal of this briefing is to enhance your understanding of Infrastructure Automation as scale with the following:

- Defining the next steps to develop a roadmap and implement quick wins in your enterprise
- Identify the investments needed in tooling, training and services required for success
- Enable you to effectively share the value of operational automation at scale in the context of business outcomes
- Setting a cadence to stay updated on best practices, quick wins and the ability of your key technology vendors to integrate into your automation ecosystem.

RECOMMENDED PARTICIPANTS:

CIOs, CTOs, VP/Director of IT, Enterprise Architects, IT Architects, Automation and Tools Teams, DevSecOps Leaders, and IT Modernization champions.

Expected time: 60 - 90 minutes.