

APRIL 17, 2020

Jamal Walsh – The Very Group

# Integrating your Toolchain - Tips and Pitfalls





# A bit about me...

- Senior Solutions Architect @ The Very Group
- The UK and Ireland's largest integrated digital retailer and financial services provider.

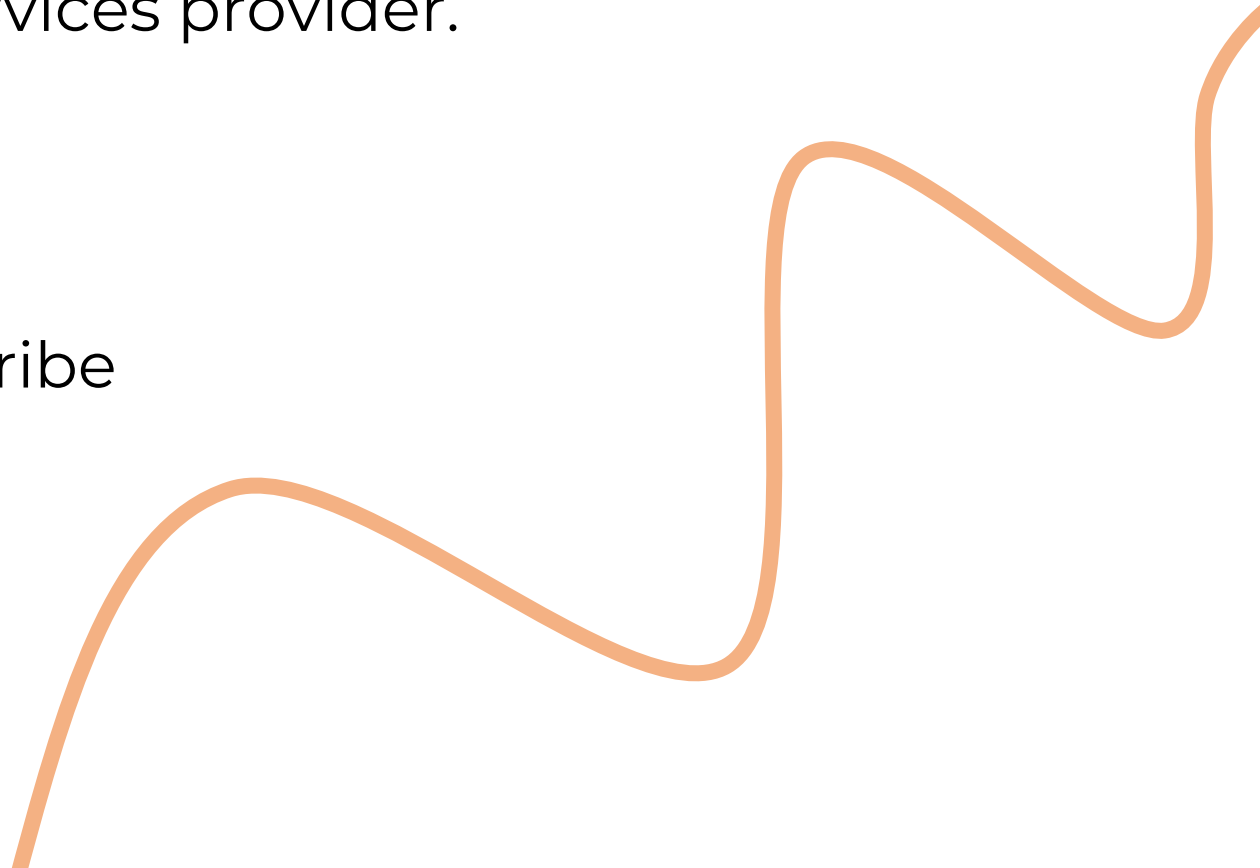
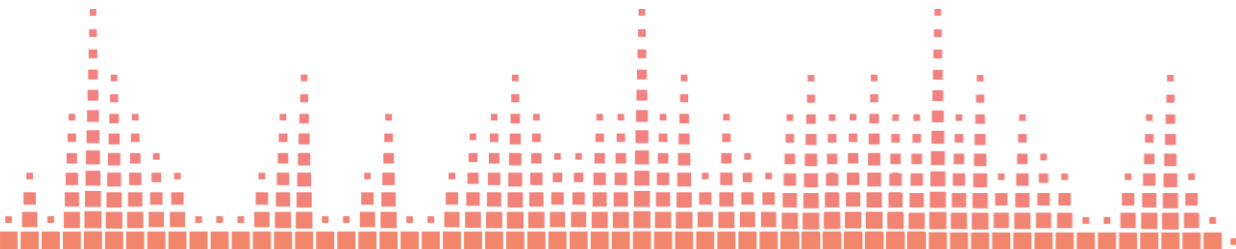
Our Brands

[www.very.co.uk](http://www.very.co.uk)

[www.littlewoods.com](http://www.littlewoods.com)

[www.littlewoodsireland.ie](http://www.littlewoodsireland.ie)

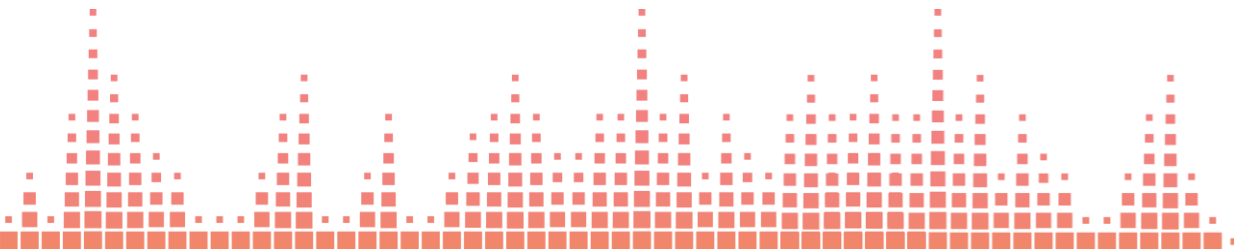
- Digital Customer Experience Tribe
- DevOps Institute Ambassador





# Agenda

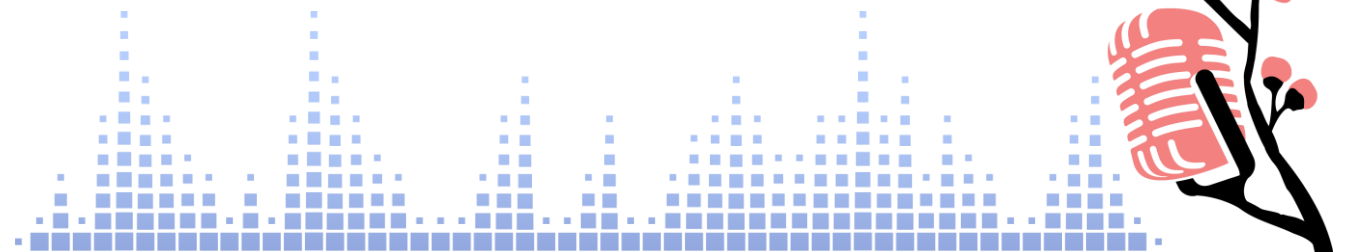
- Challenges faced Building Your Toolchain
- Pitfalls and Tips when Integrating your Toolchain



# DevOps is a Journey

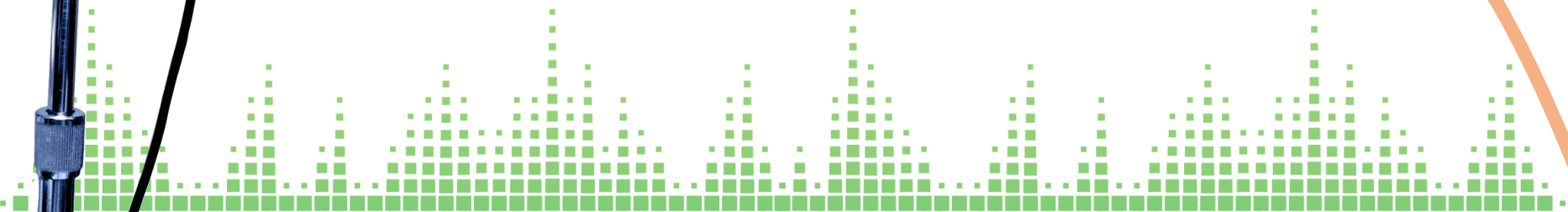


# People Process Technology Data





**One of the biggest  
challenges in any DevOps  
Journey is choosing the  
right Technology...**



Low Code / RAD / Mobile App Dev



Req Management



IDEs



Agile Management



Dev Analytics



Perf / Load / Stress



Service Virt



Functional / Automation



Repositories / Dev Communities / Integration Layers



App Automation



CI/CD



Cloud / Container Orchestration / Management



Monitoring & Mgmt



Container Security



Application Security



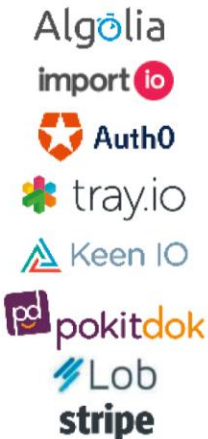
DevSecOps



API Management



API Dev Services



API Integration



API Directories

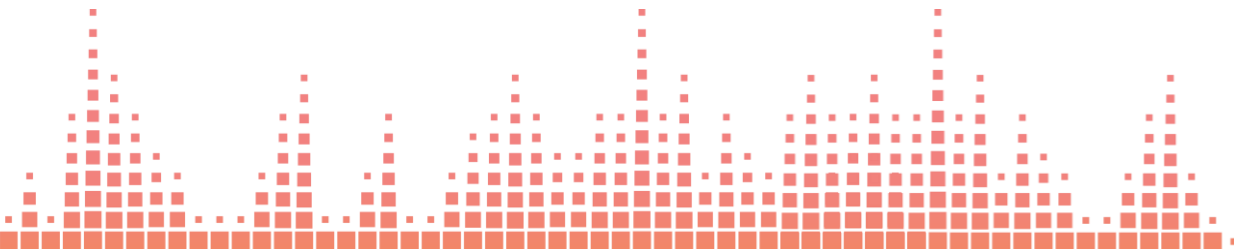




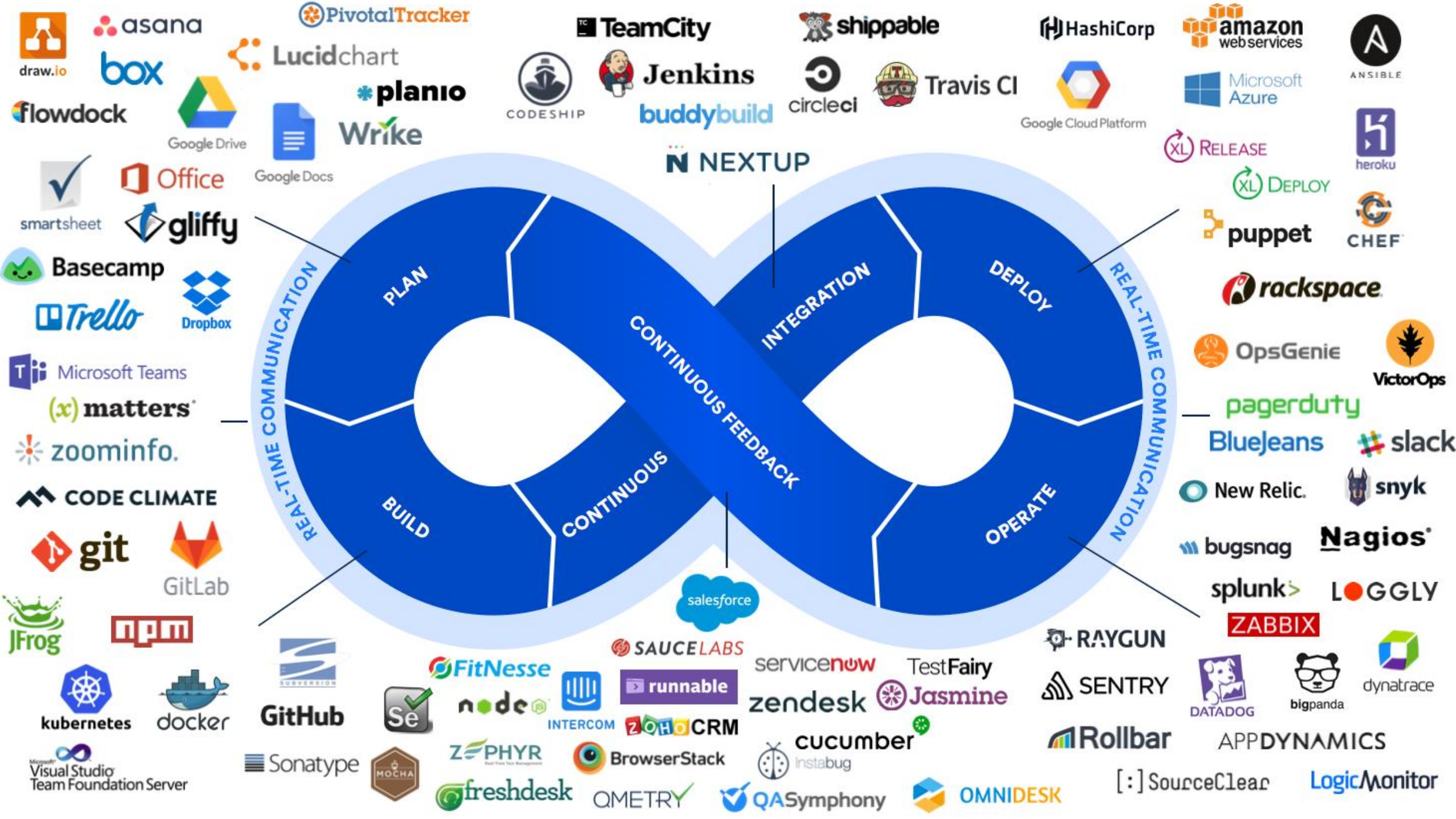
# So... After all that toolchain anxiety...

# You've chosen the right tools!

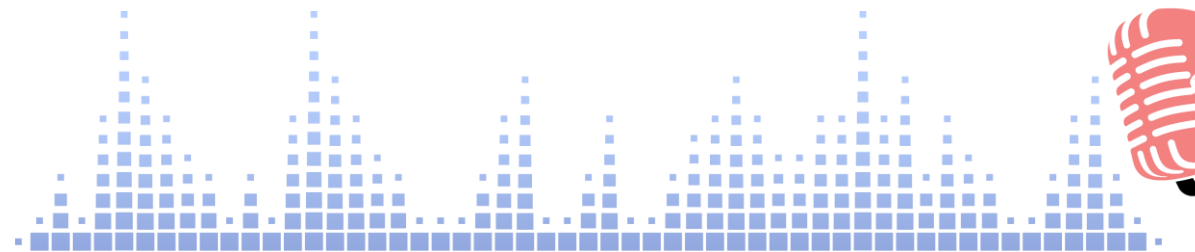
# Congratulations







# 12 of my best Tips and Pitfalls for integrating your toolchain

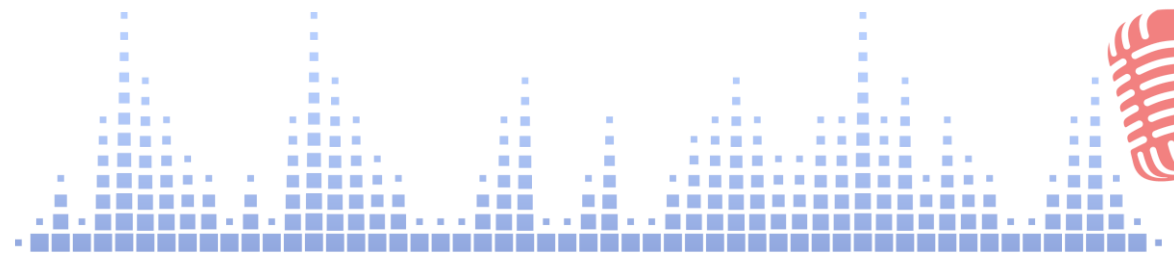


## **PITFALL:**

Not treating your pipeline as a product.

## **TIP:**

Ensure you have tasks in your backlog to continuously improve your People, Processes and Technology. Increasing the speed, quality and security of the features you deliver is just as important as delivering features. If you don't your competitors will!

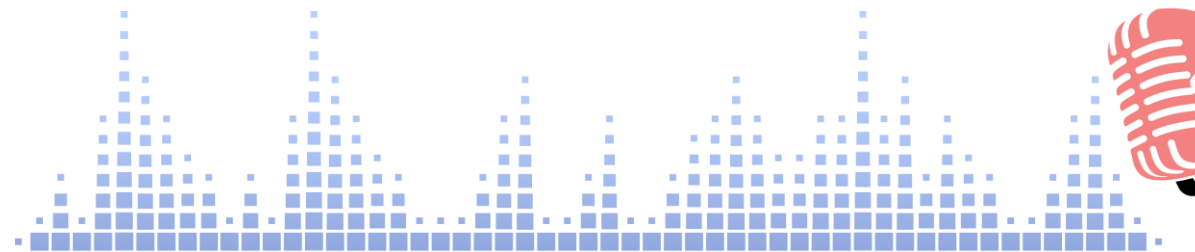


## **PITFALL:**

Adding complexity to your delivery pipeline is a bad idea.

## **TIP:**

Don't duplicate tools. Don't overcomplicate your tooling configuration

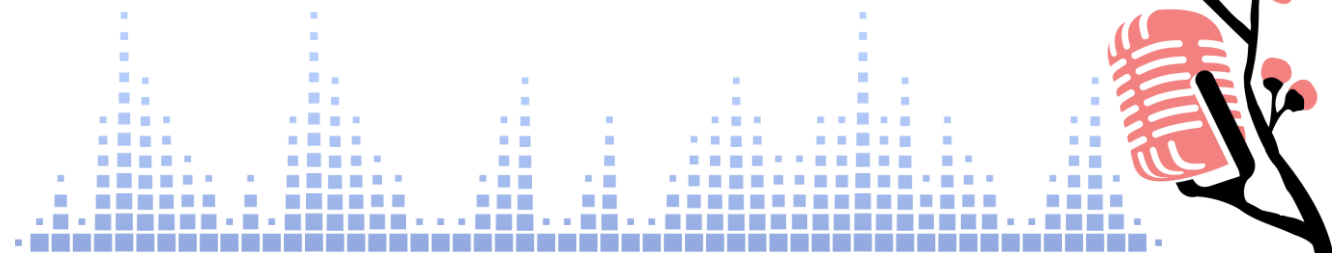


## **PITFALL:**

Not integrating with an Identity Provider  
e.g. AzureAD Okta

## **TIP:**

Integrating your toolchain with an Identity provider will reduce security risks and save you time provisioning and de-provisioning users. This type of integration usually only comes with Enterprise plans. Improves the speed you can onboard new engineers.

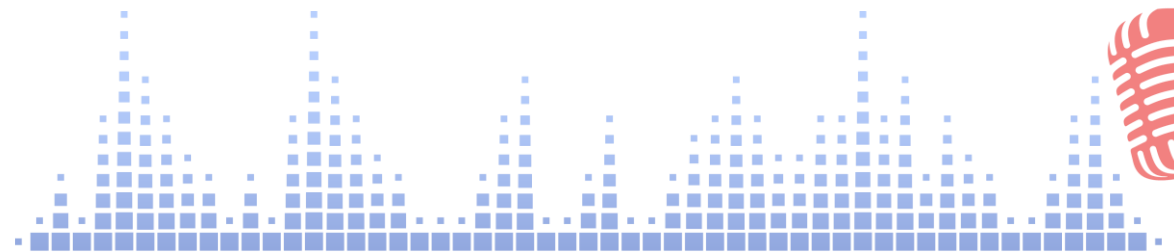


## **PITFALL:**

Using an individual's credentials for integrating tools, this can break integrations when people leave.

## **TIP:**

Create a service/system user and securely storing any credentials, API Keys etc generated for the user.

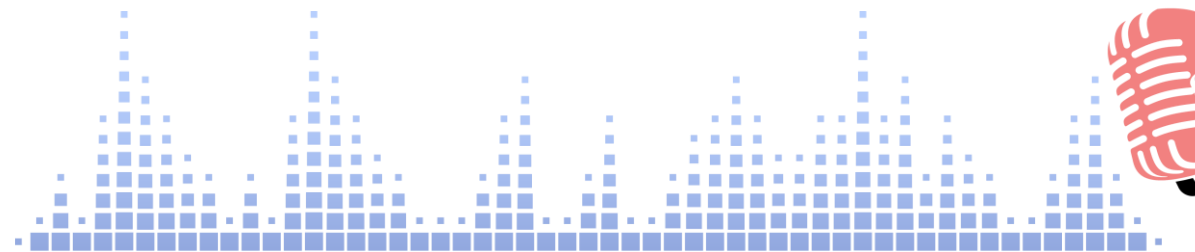


## **PITFALL:**

Bad integrations into live systems can cause major issues.

## **TIP:**

Test your integrations in trial accounts or create a separate test system.

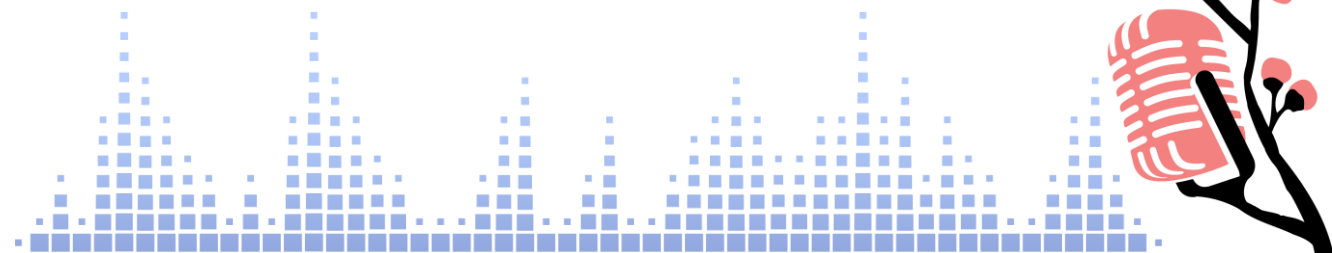


## **PITFALL:**

Not making actionable outputs

## **TIP:**

Be clear on what needs to happen with any outputs from integrations, or even better automate the actions from the outputs.



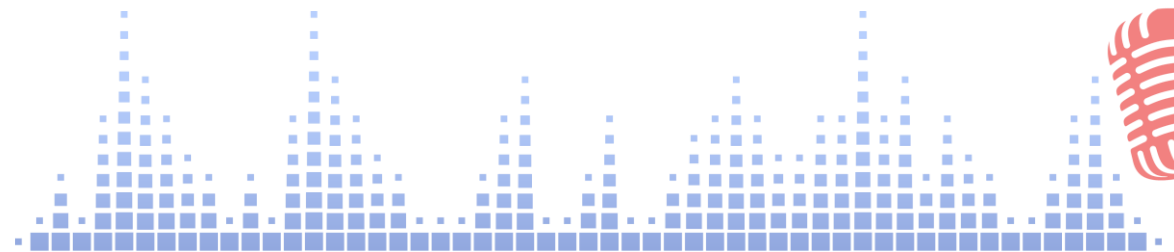


## **PITFALL:**

Not leveraging APIs

## **TIP:**

Try out the APIs using something like Postman to see what the art of the possible is.

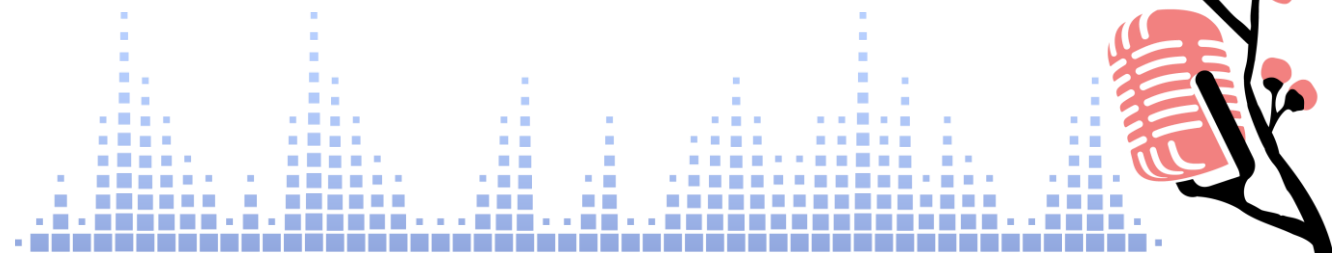


## **PITFALL:**

Not treating Everything as Code

## **TIP:**

When creating integrations consider configuring everything as code where possible, this will make things repeatable and easier to maintain.



## **PITFALL:**

Using many different tools when one will do the Job

## **TIP:**

There a huge battle going on in the DevOps tooling market right now, large vendors are adding more capability and integrations. The likes of Azure DevOps, GitLab and Cloudbees are trying to corner the market.

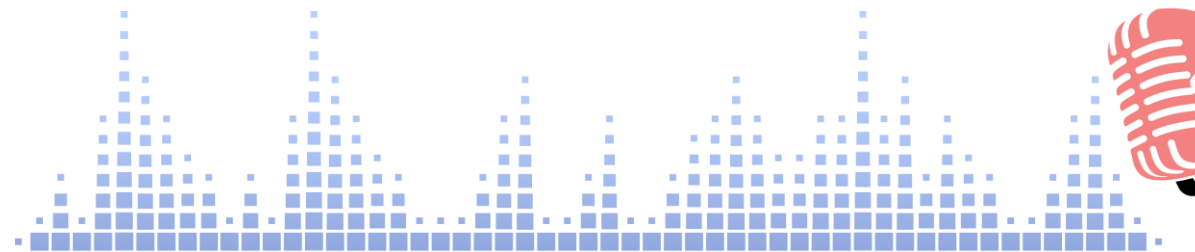


## **PITFALL:**

Not leveraging updates

## **TIP:**

Keep a close eye on the updates and release notes, you might miss a killer feature that helps you integrate and automate stuff to make your life easier.

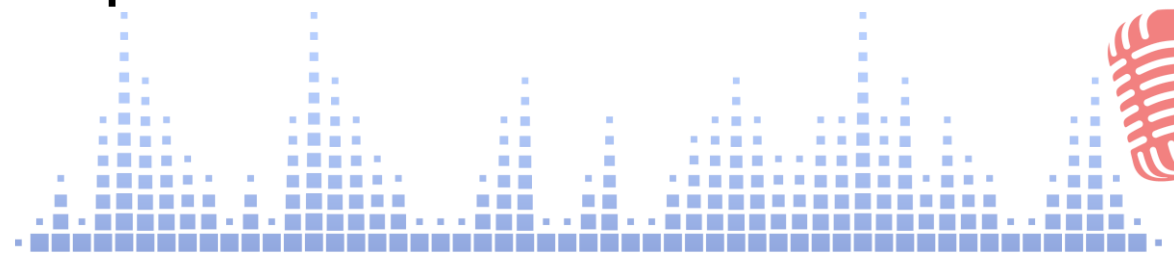


## **PITFALL:**

Not having a strategy or roadmap for your toolchain and integrations.

## **TIP:**

Build a strategy or roadmap for how you want to integrate your toolchain. Start with things that are causing you the most pain.

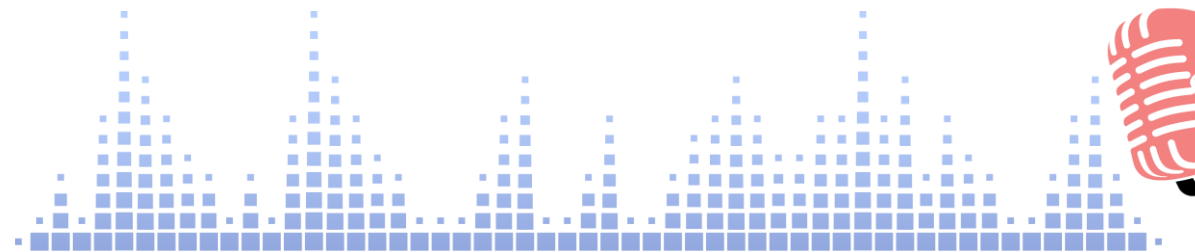


## **PITFALL:**

Not considering security when integrating tools!

## **TIP:**

Consider using Threat Modelling with [DREAD](#) and [STRIDE](#) When designing your integrations



SEE YOU IN THE FALL!

November 12, 2020 | [alldaydevops.com/register-2020](https://alldaydevops.com/register-2020)

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**THANK YOU!**



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