Rally Software and BMC: Powering the DevOps Cycle

BMC Software, the leader in IT Operations Management solutions, teams up with Rally Development, the leading vendor of Agile Development software, to enable large, complex enterprises with business-critical web applications to increase business agility.

Business challenge

The effective collaboration between Development and Operations is essential to the success of any company that relies on the performance and availability of its web applications. However, as customer expectations have become more demanding, Development and Operations organizations have evolved at different paces to respond to that demand.

For example, a decade ago, web customers were willing to wait up to seven seconds, on average, for a web page refresh, and that refresh was usually provided by one server. Today, those same customers are unhappy if they need to wait more than one second, and the content they are seeing is served, on average, by dozens of servers.

In 2000, industry thought leaders introduced Agile Methodology as a way for Development organizations to meet this increased demand. With this new methodology, they proposed a fundamental shift in Development strategy: short, well-defined requirements (called a 'customer story' or 'stories') in cyclic iterations for product releases (called 'sprints') that enable the business to respond to customer need in step-wise, 'refine as you proceed' fashion. Agile has enabled companies to sprint releases between two and eight weeks — with the average coming in at four weeks for product releases. Some companies, such as Amazon, even do hourly sprints.

Unfortunately, no such methodology shift occurred on the Operations side to accommodate this accelerated Development process. As a result, Operations organizations are faced with more releases and tighter timeframes, in addition to increased customer demand.

The BMC and Rally solution

BMC and Rally Software are partnering to help your DevOps organizations work together to speed releases, minimize errors, and increase compliance by improving communications throughout the DevOps Cycle (from initial planning, through the building of the application, to running the application in production), The typical DevOps cycle occurs as follows:

Figure 1. The DevOps Cycle

» Once a customer request is within the four walls of the business, the business makes a product or service request to Development.

» Development builds the product or service, and then sends it to Operations.

» Operations scales and deploys the product or service, measures customer traction, and provides feedback (usually in the form of process and informational metrics, such as sales, inventory velocity, bounce rates, abandoned shopping carts, etc.,) to the business application owner for future planning.
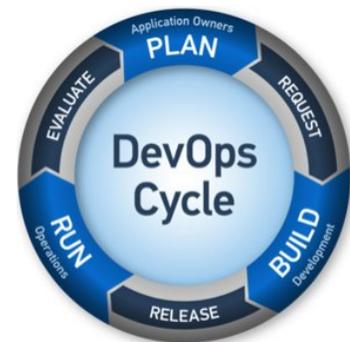
BMC Release Lifecycle Management offers a full grasp of the Development-to-Operations (Build-to-Run) portion of the cycle, while our top-ranked application performance management solutions, such as BMC End-User Experience Management, evaluate customer traction and report back to the business owner.

Because BMC does not provide a product that enables the business to communicate stories to Development or for Development to act on those stories (the Plan-to-Build phase of the DevOps Cycle), we have partnered with Rally Software to complete an end-to-end customer solution.

Rally Development

Rally Development is the leading vendor of Agile Methodology-based developer products for managing and prioritizing business requests made of development in application development. It captures and allows use of all 'story' requests, which can be used in Agile shops, in conjunction with the application owner, to prioritize, decide, and schedule what gets developed for production use.

The BMC and Rally advantage

A shared characteristic of all BMC DevOps customers and prospects is that they are either using Agile Methodology in Development or they are in the process of adopting it. As Agile significantly lowers business risk in product development, this is understandable. Additionally, Agile Methodology is now used in some fashion in over 75 percent of all of software development businesses.

The "DevOps gap" has created a need for a solution to assist in the planning, coordination, and automation of application delivery and release processes. Together, BMC and Rally provide that solution. Every Rally customer is a natural candidate for BMC Release Lifecycle Management because BMC offers a comprehensive solution for managing deployments and updates of business critical applications, including release planning, process coordination, task automation, and environment configuration management.

What's more, the release process management component of BMC Release Lifecycle Management is able to pull stories from the Rally system so that developers, testers, and operations personnel can see the status of all story releases across the enterprise.

As a result, more people can collaborate on release activities and take advantage of the powerful automation features of BMC Release Lifecycle Management while optimizing compliance with release policies and controls.

For more information

With Rally and BMC Release Lifecycle Management in place, customers can tag sprint and release cycles with the corresponding Rally-hosted story, allowing for real-time understanding of story-based feature requests that are (or are not) in current pipelines for release to production and customer use.

To learn more, please visit http://www.bmc.com/products/product-listing/application-management-suite.html.