sagitec

Microsoft's Team Foundation Server (TFS) to Azure DevOps

Project Overview

The goal is to upgrade the DevOps environment from Microsoft Team Foundation Server (TFS) to Azure DevOps Services using Git as the source control mechanism. This upgrade aims to enhance the development and release processes, making them more efficient and aligned with current industry standards.

Sagitec's strategy meets our customers' evolving needs. With Microsoft's move to the cloud for many of its current products and new features being absent in TFS, Sagitec offers DevOps modernization and release management as a service for all customers.

Challenges

Clients face several challenges with their existing TFS environment:

Move to Cloud: Moving out of TFS which is on-prem is beneficial – cloud services present more technology and productivity benefits and save cost.

Workflow Flexibility: TFS's centralized model restricts workflow flexibility, whereas Git's distributed model allows developers to manage source code more efficiently while allowing for a flexible workflow that can be adapted to suit future development needs.

Cleaner Environment: Git enables developers to commit code locally without immediate cleanup, allowing for better code management and organization.

Centralized vs. Distributed: TFS's centralized nature limits developers' choices, while Git's distributed model offers more options for future upgrades and flexibility in the choice of tools that work with Git.

Deployment Optimization: Deployment can't be optimized in the Release Pipelines, but the DevOps Services Release Pipelines can be configured to download relevant artifacts based on server type. This saves time and network usage making the deployment more optimized.

Solution Process

Sagitec proposes a comprehensive solution to address these challenges and improve clients' development and release processes:

Source Code Migration

Migrate source code from TFS to Git, preserving historical changes.

Source Code Review

Set up formal source code review processes integrated with CI/CD pipelines.

Branching Strategy

Implement a new branching strategy to improve development and release processes for short-term and long-term goals, and support ad-hoc (hotfix) releases.

Environment Upgrade

Seamlessly upgrade current environments to use the latest CI/CD pipelines, minimizing the impact on the ongoing release cycles.

CI/CD Pipelines

Provide the latest continuous integration/continuous delivery (CI/CD) build and release pipelines used in new projects.

Training

Train existing development and release management resources to use the new source control mechanism (Git) and CI/CD pipelines.

Results

The implementation of Sagitec's process leads to significant improvements in the DevOps environment:
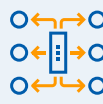
Reduced Production Release Time

The production release time reduces from **2 hours to approximately 20 minutes** of downtime for any environment.

Improved Traceability

Enhances traceability of code changes, including who made the changes, how, and when they were released to any environment.

Better Control and Quality

The process implements mandatory approvals for all critical releases, ensuring better control and quality.

Reduced Cost

Moving from on-prem TFS to cloud-based Azure DevOps saves costs on hosting servers/VMs, backup storage, and failover.

Conclusion

Sagitec's expertise in DevOps and application lifecycle management is helping clients successfully migrate from TFS to Azure DevOps Services using Git. This migration not only improves development and release processes but also provides a more flexible and efficient environment for client developers. The projects get completed within the expected timeframe, and clients continue to benefit from the enhanced capabilities and reduced downtime.

"We are excited that our help with the Azure DevOps upgrades has various benefits for our clients. Customer success is at the foundation of everything Sagitec does, and we are thrilled that we are continuing to be valuable, long-term partners for our customers, continuously improving and innovating our systems and processes."

– Sid Jain, Executive Director, Sagitec Customer Relationship Management.

Client: Fire & Police Pension Association of Colorado (FPPA) Colorado

The Fire & Police Pension Association of Colorado (FPPA) administers retirement and death & disability plans for firefighters, police officers, and other first responders throughout the state of Colorado. FPPA also administers local defined benefit pension funds for certain police and fire departments, and for some volunteer fire defined benefit plans.

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"Sagitec did an excellent job of helping us implement CI/CD. They helped us move from a very manual monolithic deployment process to CI/CD across different deployment environments. Also, during and after the migration, they were very responsive in helping us figure out hard-to-find issues we found with the existing CI/CD implementation, as well as with new features and behavior we were trying to build into it."

– Graeme Reisinger, Senior Developer

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"The Sagitec team provided exceptional service on keeping the project and extended resources to assist FPPA with the setup."

– Travis Rosa, IT Operations Manager

Client: Missouri Local Government Employees Retirement System (LAGERS)

Local Government Employees Retirement System (LAGERS) is the largest public pension system in Missouri serving local government employees. LAGERS strives toward a secure retirement for all every day and membership is made up of thousands of firefighters, police officers, utility workers, EMTs, public works personnel, and librarians, to name a few.

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"Migrating from TFS to Azure DevOps allowed us to embrace an agile development approach, improving collaboration, visibility, and efficiency across LAGERS and Sagitec teams. The modern toolset streamlined workflows, enabling faster iterations and better project tracking, ultimately delivering more value to our organization."

– Ciara Bauer, Chief Technology Officer Missouri LAGERS

About Sagitec

Sagitec is a leading platform provider for private and public sector organizations, specializing in serving customers focused on solving complex, business-rule-driven problems. Sagitec provides evolutionary enterprise-grade solutions for pension, labor and employment, health insurance, disability insurance, paid family medical leave, managed care providers, and other benefits providers.