ATARC Application Development and Development Operations Working Group

Statement of Shared Understanding, Vision and Goals

Who are we?
The Application Development and Development Operations [AppDev/Ops] Working Group are colleagues from across various government agencies, private industry and academic organizations interested in topics related to the group's name. Hosted by the Advanced Technology and Academic Research Center (ATARC), the group meets to discuss trends in the industry and challenges our organizations experience specific to Application Development and Operations.

Our meetings are designed to encourage participation, promote collaboration, place value on creativity and innovation while recognizing the tried and true. Our meeting discussions allow information and opinions to be shared in ways which are respectful within a fear-free environment.

Our Vision and Focus

As a group, our shared vision is to grow our collective understanding of this operational domain by engaging each other, invited thought leaders, industry influencers, technologists and practitioners who have the tactical and practical experience in the multidimensional field of AppDev/Ops.

We are committed to sharing this knowledge within our own agencies and organizations as well as desire to pass it forward to our peers in the industry. We meet regularly to exchange ideas, voice our opinions, review best practices, and share tips and tricks along with lessons learned which may prove useful within our individual workplace, agency, company or institution. All ideas and discussions are intended to promote collaboration and lively conversation.

Meeting Cadence and Collaboration

The group will meet, on average, once every other week and the meeting will be led by a working group chair. The group should encourage members to present ideas to generate discussion and have an established agenda prior to each meeting.

Members of the group will use the on-line collaboration platform "Huddle" as a content repository. An ATARC staff member can approve and provide new accounts for members who need access. Group members will be able to find the meeting agendas, white paper drafts, and other documentation in the huddle space. Group members can also request a document folder to be created for them to store any relevant drafts of documents or artifacts if they are tasked with providing content of any type for the group for any reason.

In addition to hearing updates about current or upcoming initiatives, discussion topics should be focused on areas of interests as agreed upon by the group. Representatives from ATARC or another identified member will keep track of the minutes per meeting, make notes from the discussions, consolidate the information and then make the notes available in the designated area in the group Huddle.

Topics of Interest

We recognize there will be some overlap in content upon which our group will focus and those of other Working Groups; however, we will endeavor to target those topics, initially identified as those germane to Application Development and Operations. We will broaden our knowledge base with the industry.

The Initial domains of knowledge include:

- Governance & Policy: Architecture & Security Compliance
- Application Architecture & Design
- User Interface & Experience [UiX]
- Accessibility [a11y]
- Discovery & Portability
- Development Workflows and Industry Practices
- Configuration Management
- Authentication/Authorization/Auditing
- Standards & Guidelines

- Application Programming Interface
- Programming Languages
- Platforms & Technologies
- Testing & Monitoring
- Instrumentation & Tooling
- Orchestration & Choreography
- Datastores
- Application Tracing

Our Work Products

White Paper

To meet our objective of sharing out, we seek to produce an annual white paper which covers several of our topics of interest. The white paper is our primary group deliverable and is designed to create a body of knowledge that informs government and industry alike about the current state and trends of Application Development and Operations for a specific topic.

Another goal of the white paper is to provide communities of interests with a diverse and inclusive document which can be used as a reliable and relevant reference. The white paper will explore each topic and touch on its history, provide a list of resources to reference to learn more, and offer concluding recommendations to consider.

One thing to note is that we do not have a separate knowledge domain dedicated to Security. This was a purposeful decision to highlight that security should always remain an integral part of all components of Application Development and Development Operations. Instead of presenting it in isolation, we choose to speak or write about it in context with the overall topic. So regardless of the domain of knowledge, security implications and practices will be noted and treated as part of the whole. The white paper will be clear to highlight this conscious choice.

Podcasts, Blogs and Panel Discussions

To create a white paper that is engaging, relevant and well-rounded in opinions, we will capture content by inviting a myriad of persons to be interviewed on our virtual AppDev/Ops podcasts or "AppChats", panel discussions along with contribute to the larger debate via blog articles. Guests will be influencer's in their field and/or knowledgeable in the subject matter. They will represent a variety of organizations and

institutions. And their viewpoints will range from the perspective of the implementor, practices of the individual contributor, observations of the product manager, process suggestions of the tech lead through thoughts of the decision maker to the insights of the evangelist and innovator. We will strive to remain product-/vendor-agnostic and focus conversations and posts on the problem domain.

Our workflow

Our group meetings are mostly guided by the topics for that year's white paper. The production timeline of the white paper will start with an initial planning meeting when the group decides on the topics for that year's paper and the 'volunteering' of the 'Topic Wranglers' who will serve as the content owners.

Once topics have been selected, the topic wranglers are responsible for engaging the appropriate community of interest and inviting speakers to be interviewed on a podcast, act as host for panelized webinars and write articles. It is expected that the topic wrangler will center the theme of their podcasts, blogs and webinars around their specific content domain. It is also expected that Topic Wranglers will be willing to lead discussions on what they've learned or invite guests to speak to the group during our bi-weekly meetings.

The last six months of the year will be focused on aggregating the information captured via these various information channels and writing the white paper. The final draft of the paper will be given to the appropriate ATARC staff for review, final edits, approval and publishing.

ATARC will provide the group with the resources required e.g. technology platform, marketing and other supports to contribute to the success of the paper. This includes sending out formal email invitations to those identified to be guests, editing and publishing blog posts, and assisting with the recording of podcasts and webinars.

For more information regarding the whitepaper structure and flow, please read the various documents posted to the White Paper folder within the AppDev/Ops Huddle space.