



# DevOps from a Different Data Set

What 30 million workflows reveal about high performing teams

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## The Setup

What are you talking about  
and how does this work?



## The Data

Here's what the data tell us.



## The Insights

Using the data, what can we  
apply to current industry trends  
and influences?



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2016  
STATE  
DevOps  
REPORT

2016  
State of  
DevOps Report

2017  
State of  
DevOps  
Report

2018  
State of  
DevOps  
Report

2019  
State of  
DevOps  
Report

Presented by  
puppet  
circleci  
splunk>

Sponsored by  
ANITIAN  
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DEVOPS RESEARCH & ASSESSMENT

Sponsored by:

splunk> amazon AWS Atlassian  
Hewlett Packard Enterprise  
Electric Cloud Deloitte WAVEFRONT by VMware



2016  
STATE  
DevOps  
REPORT

2016

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Sponsored by  
aws cloudability CYBERARK  
Cognizant dioxion IBM

Presented by  
splunk>  
  
Sponsored by  
amazon web services Atlassian  
Deloitte. WAVEFRONT by VMware  
Electric Cloud

# Performance derived vs performance described

44,000 orgs

160,000 projects

1000x larger than all  
State of DevOps Surveys

What's changed year  
over year?

# Second Year for Analysis

Year	2019	2020
Days in set	30	30
Orgs	>40,000	>44,000
Projects	>150,000	>160,000



High-performing IT organizations  
report experiencing:



200x more frequent  
deployments



24x faster  
recovery from failures



3x lower  
change failure rate



2,555x shorter lead  
times

High-performing organizations  
are decisively outperforming  
their lower-performing peers  
in terms of throughput.

# Mapping Metrics

## State of DevOps Report Metrics

Deployment Frequency  
Lead time to Change  
Change Failure Rate  
MTTR

## Description when mapping to CI

How often you initiate a  
pipeline  
Pipeline duration  
Pipeline failure rate  
Time from red to green

## Metric

Throughput  
Duration  
Success Rate  
Recovery Time



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# Throughput



How often do you push  
code that triggers CI?

Most projects configured  
to run per push to git server

# Throughput

Percentile	2020 Value
5p	0.03
50p	0.70
90p	16.03
95p	32.125
Mean	8.22



Most projects are not  
deploying dozens of  
times per day

Why is this different  
from survey data?

“Primary application or  
service you work on”

# Throughput

Percentile	2020 Value	2019 Value
5p	0.03	0.03
50p	0.70	0.80
90p	16.03	13.00
95p	32.125	25.47
Mean	8.22	5.76

Those leveraging CI well,  
are doing so even more

There are fewer  
developers worldwide  
pushing code

# Duration



How long does it take  
to get results?



5% of builds finish in  
< 12 seconds

\* That's roughly 500,000 builds in this sample

# Duration

Percentile	2020 Value
5p	12 sec
50p	3.96 min
90p	21.35 min
95p	34.01 min
Mean	24.6 min

Half of all builds finish  
in under 4 minutes


# Duration delta in a year

Percentile	2020 Value	2019 Value
5p	12 sec	10 sec
50p	3.96 min	3.38 min
90p	21.35 min	19.18 min
95p	34.01 min	31.73 min
Mean	24.6 min	26.76 min

All pipelines are  
running longer

## Duration delta in a year

Percentile	2020 Value	2019 Value
5p	12 sec	10 sec
50p	3.96 min	3.38 min
90p	21.35 min	19.18 min
95p	34.01 min	31.73 min
Mean	24.6 min	26.76 min



# Success Rate



How often does your pipeline  
complete with a green status?



# Success Rate

Percentile	2020 Value
5p	0%
50p	61%
90p	100%
95p	100%
Mean	54%

Some of our sample dabbles  
with CI, but doesn't get a  
working build

Some of our sample saw  
no failures within a month

# Success Rate

Percentile	2020 Value	2019 Value
5p	0%	0%
50p	61%	60%
90p	100%	100%
95p	100%	100%
Mean	54%	54%

# Success Rate

Percentile	2020 Value	2019 Value
50p	61%	60%
75p	89%	86%
85p	100%	98%

# Recovery Time



Time a pipeline sits  
in a failure state

# Recovery Time

Percentile	2020 Value
5p	2.06 min
50p	55.11 min
90p	39 hours
95p	3.4 days
Mean	14.85 hours



Quick **Recovery Time** can be  
from multiple contributors  
running in parallel

The gap between 50th and 75th percentiles looks like it represents waiting until tomorrow to fix a failed build (from 55 min at 50p to 9.5 hours at 75p)

# Recovery Time

Percentile	2020 Value	2019 Value
5p	2.06 min	2.83 min
50p	55.11 min	52.5 min
90p	39 hours	47 hours
95p	3.4 days	3.93 days
Mean	14.85 hours	16.61 hours

Fastest **Recovery Times** have improved (10th and percentile and lower) year over year



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# What development practices definitively work?

**Success Rate** does not  
correlate with company size



**Duration** is longest  
for teams of one

**Recovery Time** decreases with  
increased team size (up to 200)

Longest **Recovery Times**  
are from teams of one.

Performance is better with more than one contributor as shown by multiple indicators

Software is  
collaborative



Is “Don’t Deploy on Friday” a  
real thing?

70% less **Throughput**  
on weekends

11% less **Throughput**  
on Friday (UTC).



9% less **Throughput**  
on Monday (UTC).

Conclusion: About the same amount of work happens Monday or Friday. So people not holding back on pushing code on Fridays.

# What Language Trends emerge?



# Languages in our sample

21.73%	JavaScript	2.44%	Vue
11.36%	TypeScript	2.12%	Kotlin
9.56%	Python	1.70%	HCL
9.04%	Ruby	1.59%	Swift
6.16%	HTML	1.26%	C++
5.37%	Java	1.21%	Dockerfile
4.92%	PHP	1.08%	C#
3.89%	Go	1.00%	TSQL
3.17%	CSS	0.96%	Jupyter Notebook
2.99%	Shell	0.83%	Elixir

# Language Throughput

1	Ruby	11	PHP
2	TypeScript	12	Java
3	Go	13	C#
4	Python	14	Jupyter Notebook
5	Kotlin	15	Shell
6	Elixir	16	Vue
7	Swift	17	C++
8	HCL	18	HTML
9	JavaScript	19	CSS
10	TSQL	20	Dockerfile

# Language Success Rate at 50p

1	Vue	11	Elixir
2	CSS	12	PHP
3	Shell	13	Jupyter Notebook
4	Dockerfile	14	Python
5	TSQL	15	Ruby
6	HTML	16	Java
7	HCL	17	Kotlin
8	Go	18	C#
9	TypeScript	19	C++
10	JavaScript	20	Swift

# Language Recovery Time at 50p

1	Go	11	Vue
2	JavaScript	12	Jupyter Notebook
3	Elixir	13	Kotlin
4	HCL	14	Java
5	Shell	15	Scala
6	Python	16	Ruby
7	TypeScript	17	PHP
8	CSS	18	TSQL
9	C#	19	Swift
10	HTML	20	C++

# Language Duration at 50p

1	Shell	11	PHP
2	HCL	12	TypeScript
3	CSS	13	Java
4	HTML	14	Elixir
5	Gherkin	15	TSQL
6	JavaScript	16	Kotlin
7	Vue	17	Scala
8	Go	18	Ruby
9	Jupyter Notebook	19	C++
10	Python	20	Swift



# Branch Information



## README.md

# Renaming the default branch from `master`

Many communities, both on GitHub and in the wider Git community, are considering renaming the default name of their repository from `master`. GitHub is gradually renaming the default branch of our own repositories from `master` to `main`. We're committed to making the renaming process as seamless as possible for project maintainers and all of their contributors. This repository is our up-to-date guidance on how and when to rename your default branch.

We're not the only organization in the Git ecosystem making these changes: there are upcoming changes in the project ([statement](#), [code change](#)), as well as coordinated changes from multiple vendors.

We're making changes to GitHub in a few phases, designed to cause as little disruption to existing projects as possible.



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## Regarding Git and Branch Naming

*June 23, 2020*

Both Conservancy and the Git project are aware that the initial branch name, 'master', is offensive to some people. We are committed to the use of that term.

Existing versions of Git are capable of working with any branch name; there's nothing special about 'master'. The name used for the first branch when creating a new repository from scratch (with the `git init` command).

# Did the use of master branch decrease?

Not in any significant  
way....yet.

Teams are innovating and  
experimenting on feature  
branches

**Success Rate** on default branch  
higher than on non-default  
branches

**Success Rate** is 80% on the default branch at 50th percentile and 100% for 75th percentile and above

**Success Rate** at 50p is 80% for default and 58% for non-default branches



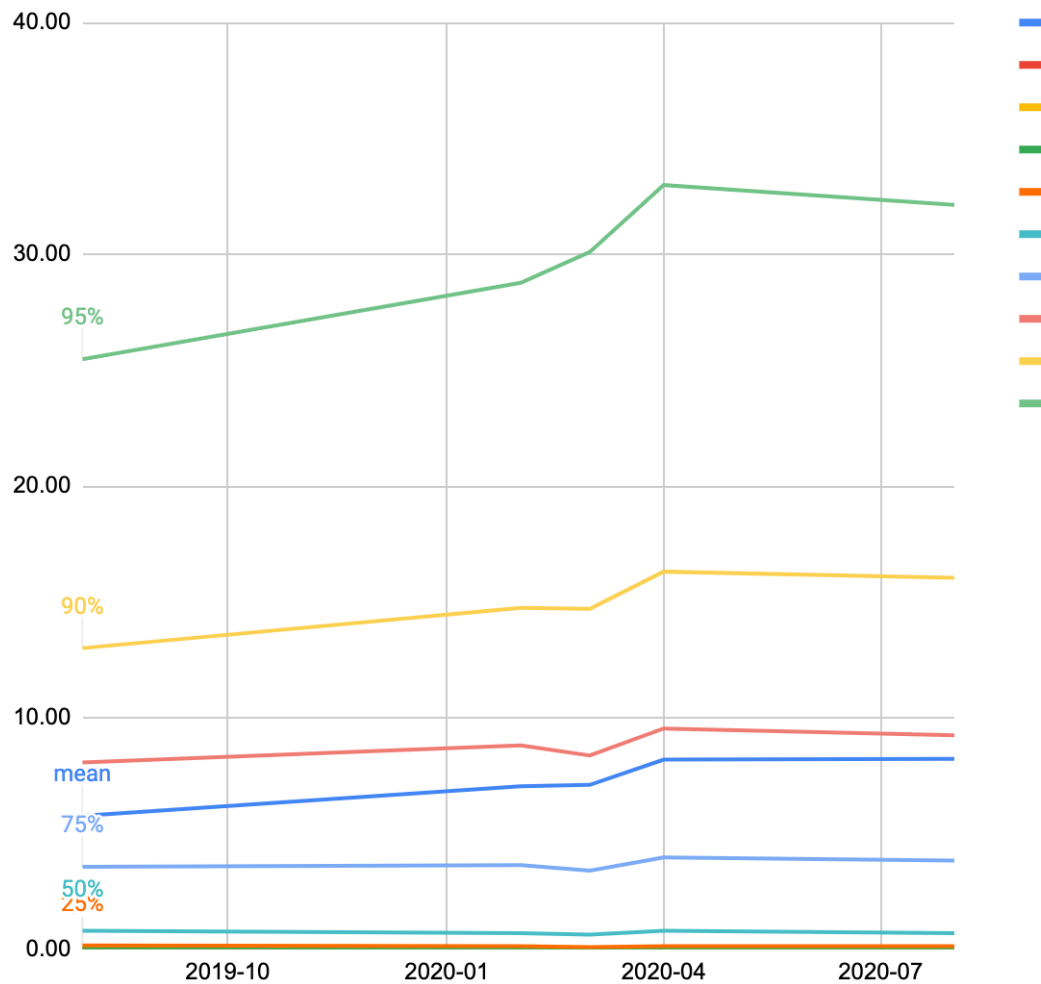
**Duration** on default branches  
are faster at every percentile.

**Recovery Time** is lower on  
default branch at every percentile.



# How has the global pandemic impacted team performance?

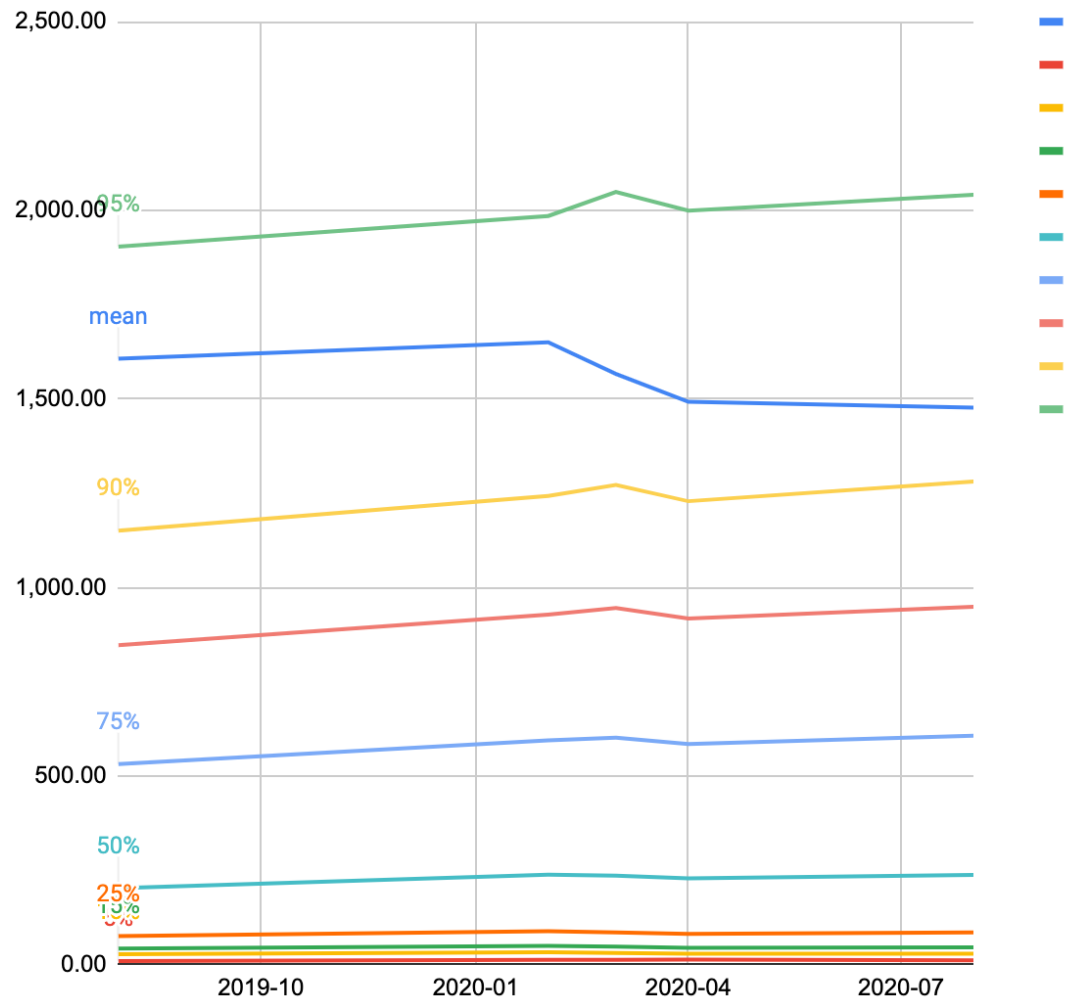
# Throughput



**Peak Throughput  
was April 2020**

After April,  
**Throughput** falls a bit

# Duration

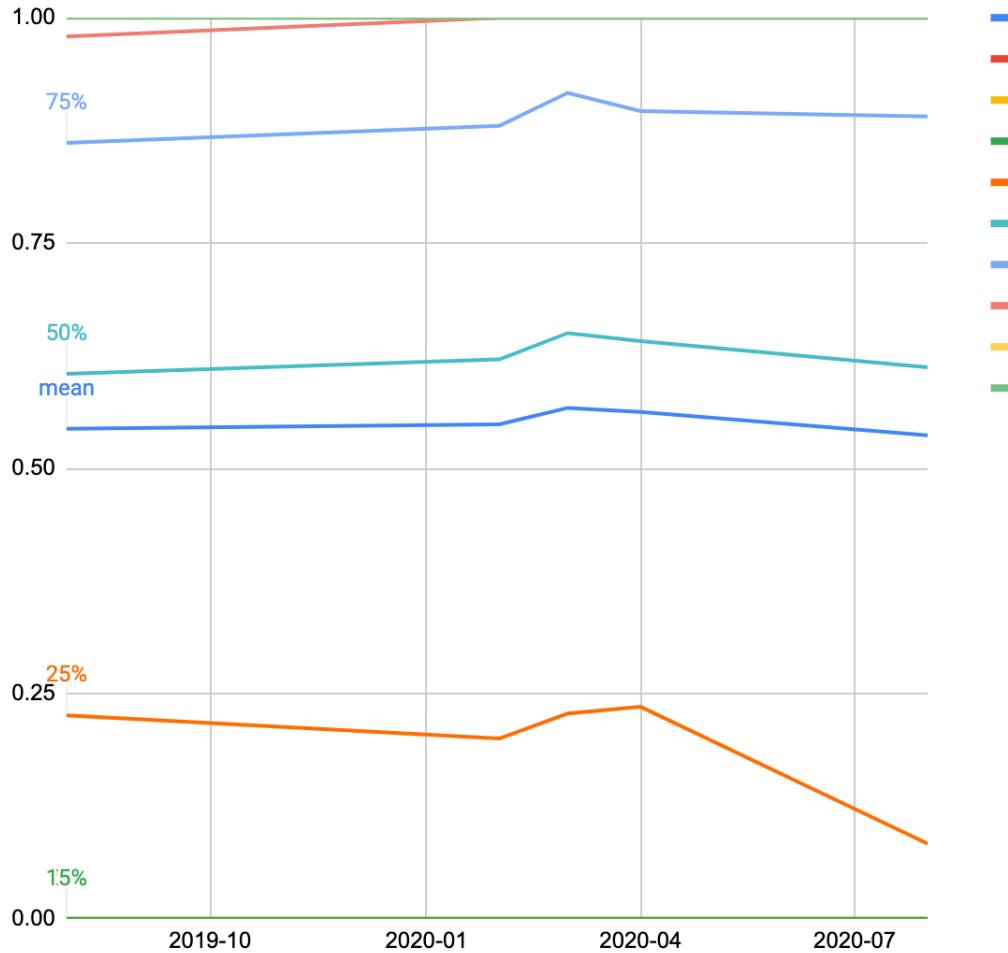


For 75th percentile and above, **Duration** increased in Feb, the increase accelerated in March, decreased in April, and increased again in August to longest **Duration**



Hypothesis: more tests were written in March, driving up **Duration**. In April, a concentrated effort on optimization

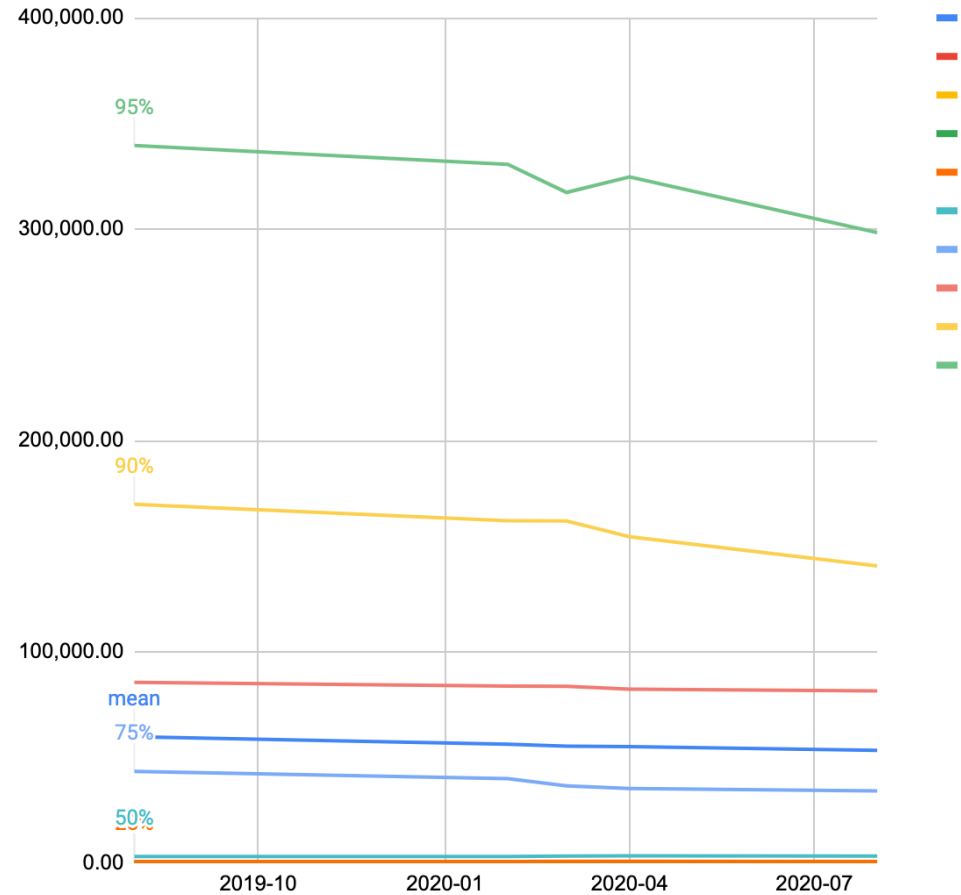
# Success Rate



**Success Rates** were the  
highest on record in April 2020

Hypothesis: people working  
hard on core business stability

# Recovery Time



Since April, **Recovery  
Time** has been improving

Orgs with the longest **Recovery Times** (75th percentile and above) have improved significantly

Hypothesis: Fewer  
distractions\* working at home

\*For some values of distraction.



# Final Thoughts



When mapped against survey surveying data, CI users at 50p show up between medium and high performers at an org level (vs project level).

**Table 2: 2017 IT performance by cluster**

Survey questions	High IT performers	Medium IT performers	Low IT performers
<b>Deployment frequency</b> <i>For the primary application or service you work on, how often does your organization deploy code?</i>	On demand (multiple deploys per day)	Between once per week and once per month	Between once per week and once per month*
<b>Lead time for changes</b> <i>For the primary application or service you work on, what is your lead time for changes (i.e., how long does it take to go from code commit to code successfully running in production)?</i>	Less than one hour	Between one week and one month	Between one week and one month*
<b>Mean time to recover (MTTR)</b> <i>For the primary application or service you work on, how long does it generally take to restore service when a service incident occurs (e.g., unplanned outage, service impairment)?</i>	Less than one hour	Less than one day	Between one day and one week
<b>Change failure rate</b> <i>For the primary application or service you work on, what percentage of changes results either in degraded service or subsequently requires remediation (e.g., leads to service impairment, service outage, requires a hotfix, rollback, fix forward, patch)?</i>	0-15%	0-15%	31-45%

\* Note: Low performers were lower on average (at a statistically significant level), but had the same median as the medium performers.

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If you are average at using a CI platform, you'll be right on the line between medium and high performer.

Our most frequent CI users have  
better outcomes on our four  
critical metrics

More collaborators  
means better outcomes

# We're hiring.

[circleci.com/careers](https://circleci.com/careers)



# Thank you

Michael Stahnke @stahnma



Special thanks to Ron Powell and Melissa Santos who gathered this data and were able to answer my questions about it.