The CTO's Top 5 To-dos guide To get you ready for 2020

1 Take a proper look at your IT infrastructure

Have you set time aside to look at it? Or are you operating on the 'Never change a running system?' Don't worry, a lot of other people do that as well (they just don't admit it). The reality is we all too often can't see the wood for the trees as we are caught up in the every day details, reporting, staff meetings and the never-ending list of things to do.

Today though, ask yourself - when was the last time you took time off to have a good hard honest look at your IT? Is this something you could do today? We've set **a plan for you** to do just that over the next few days so you arrive at the start of 2020 shipshape and ready to go.

2 Deploy Chaos Monkey and celebrate failure

Much of today's IT workload is developed and operated with the best-case scenario in mind. It's human nature. It's also often the go-to solution for developers when faced with the regular pressure of time to market that causes slippage in accuracy, tiny bugs, slips in code and test code. The result is a system where the beast of failure hidden under the surface may rear its ugly head at any time, and you are likely not prepared.

Why not take the beast by its horns and force it to reveal itself?

For example, why not force it by deploying e.g. Chaos Monkey or similar tools, and see what will happen? The important point here is not to destroy what you have, but to know and find out more – with the view to fix or improve on it.

Therefore: Why not schedule a time this week with your IT team and organise a little competition: Schedule in afternoon of 'Happy messing up day' where your teams have a friendly competition who can hit the test infrastructure the fastest and with the best root cause analysis?

You'd be surprised what you all will learn from that!

3 Give Christmas surprises for your team

IT staff are often underappreciated. Yes it's true. It's for a reason the Sysadmin appreciation day – celebrated on the last Friday in July – exists. This year, consider getting some small tokens of appreciation for your staff and hide them in their workplaces, in the racks, under network cables, or other places where no one but your nerds will look at? Why not get them little 'mince Pi's' for Christmas?

Of course, 'mince Pi's cakes and other edible nerd paraphernalia (alternatively: pizza) will be highly appreciated while your teams happily mess up your IT in a sandbox..

4 Discover and learn about a new technology

Now your IT system is somewhat in tatters (hopefully only the sandbox) and the team is filled up with Pi cake and pizza, it's time to look forward.

Why not learn about a new technology or architecture to help you improve on your IT workload? Why not look into addressing some architectural issues by following best practices? If done right, it can save you money, too.

There is a world of new technology out there, and ThoughtWorks regularly publishes comprehensive overviews.

1.   Why not learning about container security scanning?
2.   How about sidecars for endpoint security?
3.   Or consider learning about Dependabot to automate software dependency management?

5 Book a free workshop with Digital Craftsmen

Book yourself a free workshop consultation with Digital Craftsmen; we're offering a cloud sprawl audit or vulnerability scan to get your started on developing your IT priorities for 2020.

Our team of senior solutions architects are experts on the five pillars of well-architected frameworks and all our work is verified with ISO 27001 and Cyber Essentials Plus:

Cost   Security   Performance   Operations   Backup & DR

Assess   Optimise   Manage

When you leave the office, leave your work behind where it belongs, in the office, and enjoy the time with your family and friends. But before you go, don't forget to book your consultation with Digital Craftsmen for the New Year (https://www.digitalcraftsmen.com/services/cloud/professional-services/) and start 2020 with a clear vision of what needs to be done.

We hope you enjoyed reading our guide and would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

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