Tool Consolidation with Devo in IT Operations

SUMMARY
Enterprise IT organizations have too many monitoring tools, dashboards, and data silos for different domains. Point tools multiply license and maintenance costs and duplicate data management and administrative tasks. This technology clutter contributes to process and coordination challenges, ultimately limiting visibility and delaying timely action. The struggle never ends - how can IT operations teams get ahead, do more with less, and become more efficient and effective?

Architects and IT leaders are also realizing that current monitoring analytics are no longer keeping pace. They are sitting at the forefront of transformation initiatives such as cloud, automation, and DevOps. Machine-scale volume of growing data and the complexities of hybrid IT landscapes add more pressure. Cost of downtime, incident management and SLAs still matter, but there are growing demands for speed and an accelerated pace of change. IT leaders are insisting on a more robust foundation for IT performance management that can keep pace with agile delivery of new services. Enterprises need a monitoring solution that works at scale for visibility into all data, and offers greater consistency, collaboration, time to resolution and time to action.

Taking a hard look at all the tooling across the enterprise and identifying redundant capabilities is the first step in simplifying the monitoring stack. Tool consolidation is a time-tested approach in any enterprise IT transition. Leading organizations are turning to enterprise log management to achieve their tool consolidation goals.

KEY TRIGGERS PROMPTING TOOL CONSOLIDATION
Tool consolidation in data management isn’t new in the industry - why is it especially important now? We see a number of factors and trends coming together.

- **Cost reduction to drive investment:** Taking the license and maintenance costs of legacy and point tools off the books creates budget for higher-value services and advanced tooling (e.g. machine learning).

- **Mandate for overall IT visibility:** There are blindspots everywhere - forgotten departments as well as emerging environments such as cloud. Shadow IT is now mainstream IT, running critical business process. Existing monitoring tools can’t even keep up with the volume of data - often just a few data sources. Enterprises are demanding consistent, holistic and granular visibility across all environments - old, new and connected - spanning legacy apps and infrastructures along with SaaS, PaaS or IoT.

- **Cloud migration:** Traditional performance monitoring tools aren’t cloud native and were not designed to be multi-tenant solutions. As workloads migrate to the cloud, the lift-and-shift of management and monitoring is exposing the license cost of the management tools, in addition to the workload or application. Pay-as-you-consume is a great model until CIOs and CFOs realize that their consumption is indeed growing. Hiding performance tooling costs in an on-premises data center as a sunk or incurred expense is no longer an option.
- **Shift to a shared service model**: Cloud migration is prompting another shift. For years lines-of-business and application teams ran their own IT stacks to control their own destiny. Now, IT organizations are taking back control. Moving key functions such as monitoring, incident management, and automation back into a shared services model saves costs and improves process consistency.

- **DevOps velocity**: Developers, DevOps, and SRE professionals are both end users and stakeholders in modern IT. Release cycles in e-commerce and banking environments are moving from an update per week, to daily full code deploys. These teams are demanding real-time visibility into application performance at TB/PB scale as they automate their release and delivery pipelines. They have embraced open source or built-in monitoring capabilities. Unfortunately, the ‘each developer for themself’ model increases tool proliferation and ends up compromising enterprise-wide coordination and visibility.

- **Reporting lacks both insight and speed**: Report and dashboard proliferation remains a huge problem and there are still organizational and skill disconnects. Most monitoring reports are built for the IT experts - not analysts or end users. Enterprises have built thousands of dashboards, but 80% of them are never used and analysts wait weeks for IT to build them even more.

**BENEFITS OF TOOL CONSOLIDATION WITH DEVO NO-COMPROMISE LOG MANAGEMENT**

The Devo Data Analytics platform is built on a no-compromise architecture to uniquely enable organizations to collect and centralize all machine data across the enterprise. Devo handles log management for greater consistency, governance, and visibility across all teams, without the complexity and challenges of disparate tool stacks. The Devo platform can collect data, events, alerts, and metrics from multiple sources, making the associated domain-specific tools ideal candidates for consolidation.

The Devo Data Analytics platform is significantly more than log collection. It is a full platform spanning collecting, storage, analytics, and visualization.

**CONSOLIDATE DATA COLLECTION TO REDUCE TOTAL COST OF OWNERSHIP**

Take a hard look at the multiple tools involved in data collection across your organization. Each technology brings its own data format, unique agents and potentially separate data stores. The Devo Data Analytics no-compromise platform can quickly centralize, collect and normalize all those sources from a variety of data feeds, streaming sources, and even data lakes. Devo is agent-agnostic, making it easy to integrate with your existing infrastructure. Consolidating data collection tools eliminates data silos, duplicate storage costs, as well as licence, maintenance and training costs. With a single platform for collection and log and event search, IT Ops analysts can bid goodbye to the swivel-chair data tools. They can simply run a query and drill in directly to the data that matters.
CONSOLIDATE THE ANALYTICS TO REDUCE MEAN TIME TO RESOLUTION

Purpose-built analytics solutions such as APM, NPM, and AIOps, as well as machine learning solutions and DIY open-source analytics have their place. But what if most of the capabilities could also exist in a single platform, with superior speed and performance? Today, analysts, IT administrators and performance engineers duplicate their analytics and incident management tasks with multiple tools, using different workflows. This slows investigation time and drives up mean time to detection and insight.

As teams work through root-cause analysis, they face more friction, a longer list of false positives, and more triage activities across multiple dashboards. The Devo Data Analytics platform, built on a no-compromise architecture with ML built in, offers superior query performance and scales to support any cloud-scale workload. By consolidating with Devo for monitoring and analytics, organizations see a faster time to resolution. And, teams can embrace use cases such as digital experience management and real-time application monitoring - all without the burden of a complex stack.

REPLACE MULTIPLE OPEN SOURCE TOOLS FOR COMPLEX SERVICE MONITORING

Financial services institutions, banks, and brick-and-mortar retailers have built years of domain-specific application stacks, which are challenging to monitor in real-time. Attempting to throw open source tooling on top of data lakes or batch applications might seem cost effective and logical at first, but that approach requires a huge amount of effort, data wrangling and infrastructure overhead - and compromises in speed and performance.

Recently, the Devo Data Analytics Platform replaced Spark, ELK, Solr at a major bank, serving as the primary data collection and analytics engine across a complex application portfolio. The bank is already seeing significant benefits:

- **Opex savings:** The bank realized that open source isn’t really free - ELK’s indexing and compression scheme of 1:1.2 added significant hardware overhead in an on-premises model. The Devo SaaS solution eliminated these ELK-associated hardware storage costs.
- **Frees IT personnel to focus on analytics:** The Devo SaaS application monitoring solution eliminated all the tool-integration headaches and administrative burdens of the open source data pipeline. Now application analysts have more cycles to tackle the analytics and reports demanded by different business units.
- **Faster and granular visibility:** All users - executives, managers and IT analysts - have access to the right level of granular visibility to understand performance issues.

THE PUNCHLINE

Look to Devo’s no-compromise architecture for all the scale and speed to confidently consolidate your IT monitoring stack. Tool consolidation achieved with enterprise log management goes beyond cost reduction. Think of tool consolidation like a gear chain; removing pieces makes it work smoother and faster so you can achieve the holy grail of streamlined, efficient and effective operations. All operations teams will win at the game of faster detection, proactive response and faster remediation.

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