



CHALLENGE

Streamline project startups and minimize infrastructure maintenance in a hybrid development environment

SOLUTION

Standardize on Jenkins with DEV@cloud from CloudBees and use on-premise executors to enable deployment to QA and production environments hosted on an Amazon VPC

RESULTS

- >> Maintenance overhead minimized
- >> Project startup time shortened
- >> Responsive support received

PRODUCTS USED

- >> DEV@cloud

Dominion Marine Media Sets Sail with Jenkins in the Cloud

Dominion Marine Media provides web services, portal advertising and marketing solutions to the recreational marine industry, including brokers, dealers and private sellers of boats and yachts. The company's websites serve more than 38 million unique visitors annually in six languages for customers in 106 countries. A team of approximately 35 developers at seven locations is responsible for developing and maintaining the software for all Dominion Marine Media offerings.

Dominion Marine Media standardized on continuous integration with Jenkins in the cloud, using DEV@cloud to improve agility, accelerate deployment cycles and streamline development in a hybrid environment that includes both cloud-based and locally hosted infrastructure. "We develop numerous small services that each provides a well-defined function or feature for the overall system. As a result, we need to spin up new projects quickly and often," says Mike Marich, engineering manager at Dominion Marine Media. "DEV@cloud enables our developers to rapidly set up new projects and concentrate on development, not the build infrastructure. With CloudBees, we spend much less time dealing with build issues and more time doing the actual development, which is the core of our business."

Challenge: Ensure Consistency, Reduce Infrastructure Maintenance Overhead and Simplify Project Set Up

Dominion Marine Media developers had been using both open source Jenkins and Bamboo for continuous integration (CI), but there was little consistency across projects or teams, which led to personnel and training challenges. "One of our goals is to have a truly cross-functional team, and we needed to standardize our CI tools to achieve that," says Marich. "For developers to use a new tool consistently, it needs to just work and it needs to be rather trivial to configure."

At the same time, the company wanted to move away from hosting and maintaining their own CI infrastructure. "We don't want to have to host any of the hardware or software ourselves if we can get away with it. We want to keep our own infrastructure down to a bare minimum and use a hosted solution instead," says Marich. While the team was ready to move Java development to the cloud, they also needed support for building .NET components used on their platform and they wanted to continue to host their own quality assurance (QA) and production environments, at least in the near term. The company sought to adopt a hosted CI solution with support for hybrid environments across its development organization.

A Solution for Standardizing CI in a Hybrid Environment

Dominion Marine Media standardized on the CloudBees DEV@cloud development platform, which is a hosted Jenkins CI service. The hardware and Jenkins software is maintained by CloudBees and developers simply utilize the services. DEV@cloud also provides access to a set of additional plugins for optimizing the use of Jenkins.

Using the Templates plugin included in DEV@cloud, the team defined job templates that capture a standard configuration, making it easy to create new jobs. "To set up a new project, our developers can simply provide the URL of the project in GitHub and a name for the project," says Marich. "From there, the Templates plugin takes care of provisioning the whole build pipeline."

“With CloudBees, we benefit from division of labor. My team gets to develop and leave the provisioning and builds to DEV@cloud and Jenkins. We are happy with that because we can do what we’re good at while CloudBees does what it is good at.”

>> Mike Marich, Dominion Marine Media

Learn More About Dominion Marine Media:

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CloudBees
The Enterprise Jenkins Company

Taking advantage of the hybrid capabilities of DEV@cloud, the group set up two On-Premise Executors. The first supports .NET builds on a hosting center in the UK. The second runs on an Amazon Virtual Private Cloud (VPC) and is responsible for deployments to the company’s QA and production environments.

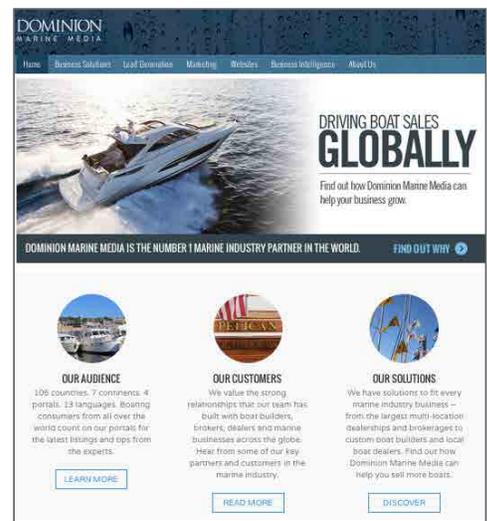
Deployment artifacts are stored in JFrog Artifactory, a binary repository service from the CloudBees Partner Ecosystem. From there, the On-Premise Executor copies artifacts to the appropriate deployment environment.

The group uses another CloudBees Ecosystem service, Sonar, to manage code quality and gather QA metrics on their builds.

When developers complete development on a new feature or function, they publish to an integration environment. After the application has been tested by QA, it is slated for deployment to production, which typically takes one minute to one hour, depending on the project, with deployments performed weekly.

Results

- >> **Maintenance overhead minimized.** “In the past when we were using Bamboo and open source Jenkins, we had stuck builds or other issues every few days,” says Marich. “Now that we’ve standardized on DEV@cloud, we have much less downtime. I can’t remember the last time we had a serious issue.”
- >> **Project startup time shortened.** “When developers want to spin up a new project, I point them to our documentation on CloudBees and tell them the archetypes are in place,” says Marich. “After provisioning a new build for the first time, they are surprised at how easy it was. It’s simple and it just works.”
- >> **Responsive support received.** “Having knowledgeable, trained support staff that we can ping when we have questions makes life a lot easier for us. CloudBees support is responsive, and that means we are spending less time on non-development tasks.”



CloudBees Jenkins Enterprise and CloudBees Jenkins Operations Center are built on top of open source Jenkins, an independent community project. Read more at: www.cloudbees.com/jenkins/about

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