# Developer Experience.. Central to DevOps Success

@IAmJerdog



What is Developer Experience?

# DevEx is *more* than just your parent's DevOps lifecycle

# DevEx isn't new



REF: F. Fagerholm and J. Münch, "Developer experience: Concept and definition," 2012 International Conference on Software and System Process (ICSSP), Zurich, Switzerland, 2012.

# DevEx isn't new

"New ways of working such as globally distributed development or the integration of self-motivated external developers into software ecosystems will require a better and more comprehensive understanding of developers' feelings, perceptions, motivations and identification with their tasks in their respective project environments.""

REF: F. Fagerholm and J. Münch, "Developer experience: Concept and definition," 2012 International Conference on Software and System Process (ICSSP), Zurich, Switzerland, 2012.

# DevEx isn't new

"...developer experience could be defined as a means for capturing how developers think and feel about their activities within their working environments, with the assumption that an improvement of the developer experience has positive impacts on characteristics such as sustained team and project performance."

REF: F. Fagerholm and J. Münch, "Developer experience: Concept and definition," 2012 International Conference on Software and System Process (ICSSP), Zurich, Switzerland, 2012.

# Point of clarification

- "DevEx" by default focuses on "developer"
- View "DevEx" as a whole of the lifecycle

"DevOps Experience"

"DevOps Experience"

"DevExOps"

"DevOps Experience"

"DevExOps"

"DevOpsEx"

"DevOps Experience"

"DevExOps"

"DevOpsEx"

?????

## Jeremy Meiss

Co-Founder, DevEx Consultant

#### DevEx Institute

https://DevEx.Institute

DevOpsDays Kansas City Organizer



# A working definition of DevEx

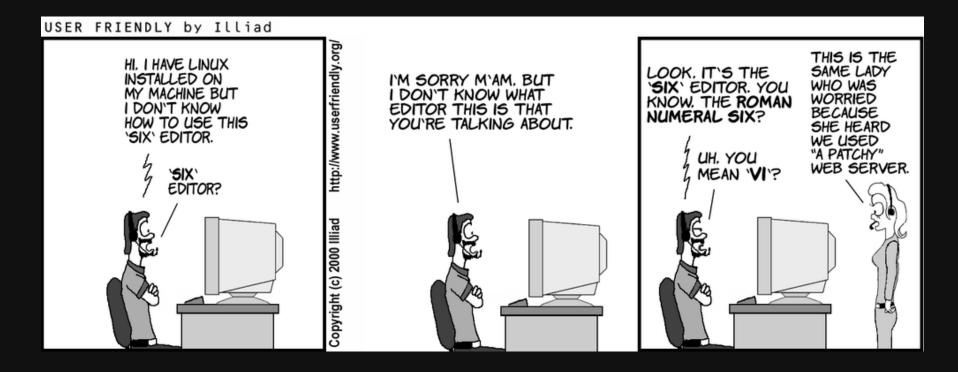
"...the **journey** of developers as they learn and deploy technology, which if successful, focuses on eliminating obstacles that hinder a developer or practitioner from achieving success in their endeavors."

-Jessica West, Co-Founder, DevEx Institute

# DevEx includes every interaction a developer/ops practitioner has with systems, tools, and processes

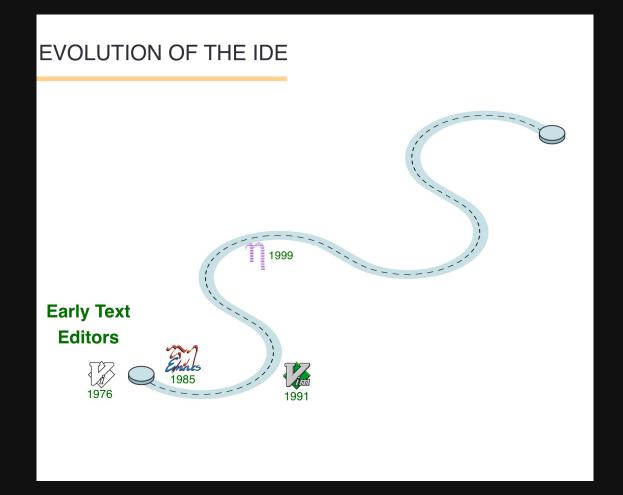


#### Early text editors

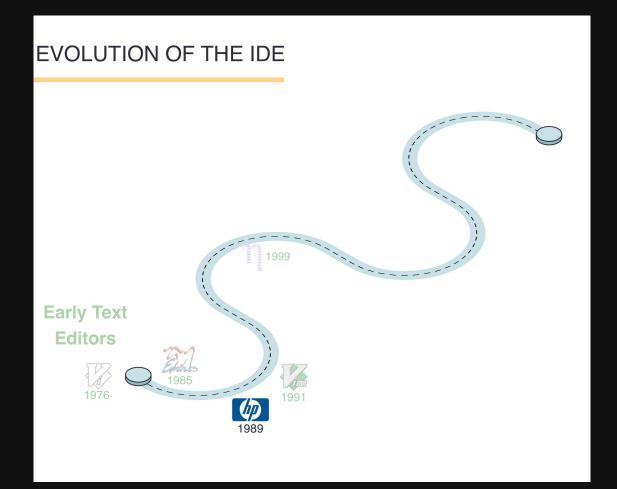


REF: O'Reilly "Learning the vi and Vim Editors"

#### Early text editors



#### First plug-in IDE



#### **First plug-in IDE**

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#### The HP SoftBench Environment: An Architecture for a New Generation of **Software Tools**

The HP SoftBench product improves programmer productivity by integrating software development tools into a single unified environment, allowing the program developer to concentrate on tasks rather than tools.

#### by Martin R. Cagan

HE HP SOFTBENCH PRODUCT is an integrated software development environment designed to facilitate rapid, interactive program construction, test, and maintenance in a distributed computing environment.

The HP SoftBench environment provides an architecture for integrating various CASE (computer-aided software engineering) tools. Many of the tools most often needed—program editor, static analyzer, program debugger, program builder, and mail—are included in the HP SoftBench product. Another HP SoftBench component, the HP Encapsulator, makes it possible to integrate other existing tools into the HP SoftBench environment and to tailor the environment to a specific software development process. Fig.

1 illustrates the HP SoftBench user interface.

This article describes the HP SoftBench tool integration architecture. The HP SoftBench program editor, static analyzer, program debugger, program builder, and mail are described in the article on page 48. The HP Encapsulator is described in the article on page 59.

#### **Design Objectives**

The overall goal of the HP SoftBench product is to improve the productivity of programmers doing software development, testing, and maintenance. To achieve this goal, the following objectives were defined for the tool integration architecture:

(continued on page 38)



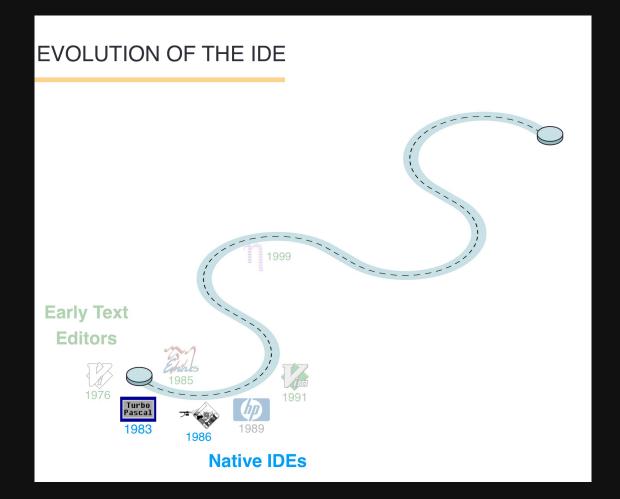
#### REF: HP Journal, June 1990 edition

Early reviews

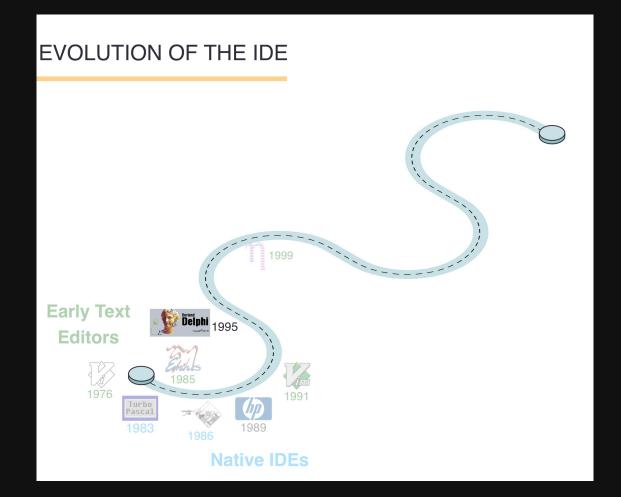
*"...the use of an IDE was not well received by developers since it would fence in their creativity."* 

REF: *Computerwoche* ("Computer Week", German counterpart of American magazine *Computer World*), 1995.

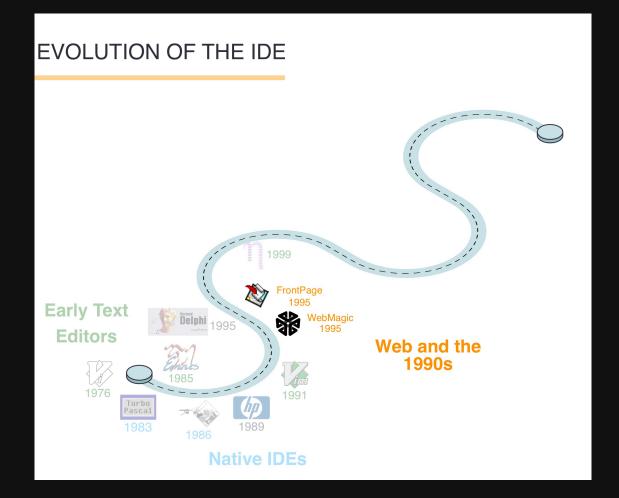
#### Native IDEs in the 1980s



#### Cross-platform in the 1990s

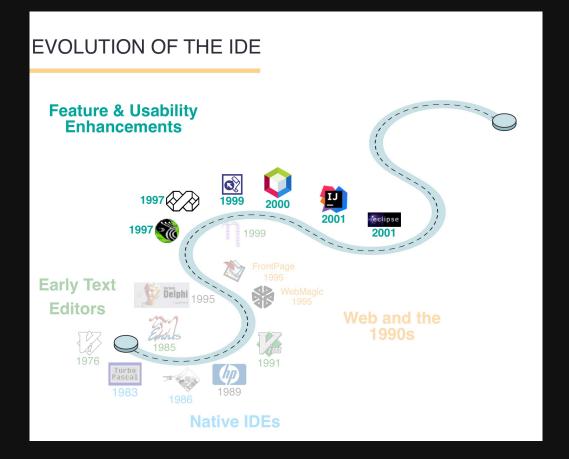


#### The Web and the 1990s



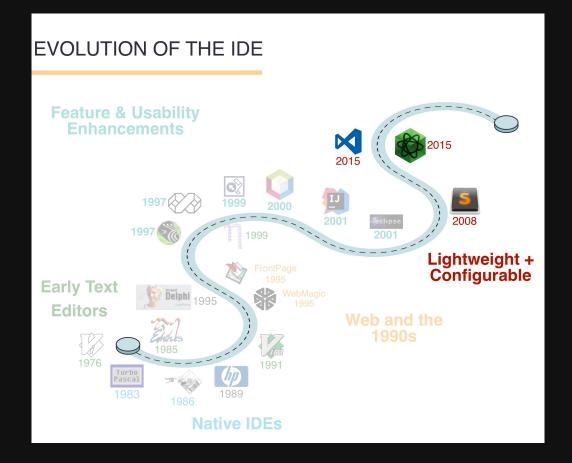
Feature & Usability Advancements

(Late 1990s to 2000s)



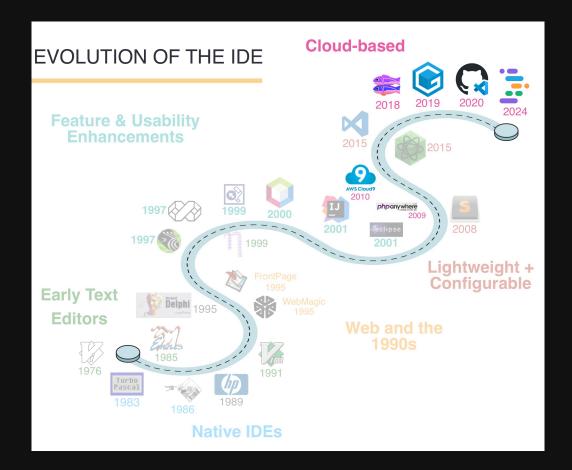
#### Lightweight and configurable

2010s to Now



#### **Cloud-based options**

Now



# IDEs are a result of DevEx

## Things we never knew we needed...

From this:

*"...the use of an IDE was not well received by developers since it would fence in their creativity."* 

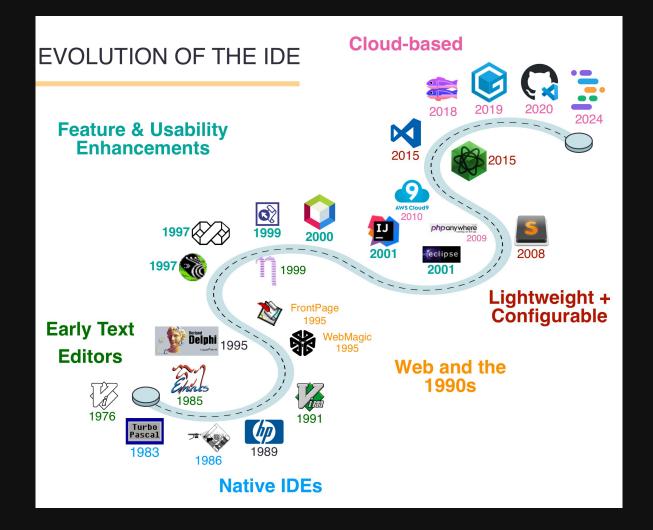
# IDEs are a result of DevEx

## Things we never knew we needed...

To this:

- Code completion
- Syntax highlighting
- Debugging
- VCS integration (no more FTPing files around)
- Multi-language support
- Framework integration
- Pair programming

# **IDE Evolution**





Manual configuration

Late 1990s to Early 2000s

Manual configuration

Late 1990s to Early 2000s





#### **Config Mgmt & Containerization**

Mid-2000s to 2010s



#### IaC and DevOps Integration

2010s to Present





# **Broader Impact of DevEx**

- Deployment Pipelines
- Infrastructure as Code (IaC) Practices
- Developer Efficiencies

• Collaboration

• Enhanced collaboration *via tools and processes* 

- Collaboration
- Communication

- Enhanced collaboration *via tools and processes*
- Improving communication *via streamlined info sharing and feedback*

- Collaboration
- Communication
- Shared Responsibility

- Enhanced collaboration *via tools and processes*
- Improving communication *via streamlined info sharing and feedback*
- Shared responsibility by empowering all teams with access and information



#### **Platform Engineering**

Sumivana

Sec:ution

## The rise of all Platform Engineering

Creation of specific, integrated environments that devs need

- Abstract away complexities of infrastructure & backend services
- Ensure devs have access to robust, scalable, easy-to-use platforms
- Streamline development processes and reduce setup time

#### **Self-Service Platforms**

- Empower developers to control their needs with necessary tools
- Leverage automation, templates, policies with agility
- Accelerate development, enhance productivity, and foster autonomy and innovation



### Better Practices for leveling up your "DevOps Experience"

- Empower with the right tools
- Encourage Cross-functional Teams
- Implement Feedback Loops
- Focus on Automation
- Invest in Training and Development

### DevEx reflects an organizations values

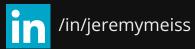
If your company does not already have a process for gathering feedback (internal & external) on your product and/or the tools you use, you will not have a good Developer Experience, and I seriously question your commitment to it.

— Jeremy's 'Working' *Filler* (@IAmJerdog) January 25, 2024

# DevEx is...

"ruthlessly eliminating barriers (and blockers) that keep your practitioners from being successful"

# Thank You.





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