

# WELCOME TO PLATFORM PARADISE

The 7 components to achieving the Internal Developer Platform (IDP) dream

Welcome to Platform Paradise!

Every dev team needs an Internal Developer Platform that will empower them to deliver more reliable features into production faster. The best IDPs will enable self service, push-button deployments of software and infrastructure, and will cater to all your communities. So please have your tray and seat in the upright position and get ready for landing - we hope you'll enjoy your stay!



## Application Configuration Management

Always knowing exactly the configuration, secrets and environment that is running allows you to create exact replicas; be that for performance testing, disaster recovery or just simple regression testing. You're about to go faster and safer than you ever thought possible!

**Protip:** If your services have a similar structure, use templating technology (e.g. Helm charts) to make it easier to create and manage them at scale.



## Infrastructure Orchestration

When every environment's infrastructure is safely stored in source control (Infrastructure As Code or IAC), environments can be recreated by the touch of a button or a script. This gives you reproductibility as a gateway to building more reliable and testable environments, and better testing means better end products for your customers.

**Protip:** If you're a Terraform shop and your code is getting messy, consider using a tool like Terragrunt to keep your configuration DRY, no matter how many environments you have.



## Governance

With all this automation, you need to be sure that only the right people can create and modify the right things. Adopting a policy-as-code approach, through things like sensible OPA policies can help you and your security teams sleep at night. With no hidden back doors into production, the easier your deployment process, the more your process will be followed.

**Protip:** If you're big on K8S, consider implementing Gatekeeper on your clusters. It uses OPA specifically for K8S Admission Control.



## Continuous Delivery

Ensuring delivery teams can get their features and updates out quickly to production significantly increases the speed at which customers can get access to new functionality and increase usage of your products. Continuous Delivery (CD) plays a key part to shipping early and often to end customers.

**Protip:** If you're running complex Github Actions pipelines that require a lot of storage and computation time, consider using self-hosted runners.



## Observability

Keep an eye on what's going on! Having a lookout tower that gives you a view across the entire estate you're managing from logs to traces and metrics, builds confidence around managing complex environments, tracks potential threats and accelerates development.

**Protip:** Don't just use it as a production tool. Use observability to track potential issues early in development and ensure it's being used across different teams.



## Automation & Self-Service

Providing self-service capabilities for as much as possible, from environment provisioning to CI/CD pipelines can really empower your delivery teams and promote further innovation and experimentation. The ability to automatically scale up and down also helps in the much needed area of keeping your costs under control too!

**Protip:** API driven technology is key to enabling this capability, but don't neglect providing solid documentation - this additionally helps reduce the time needed to get up to speed, and prevent teams stalling in their various endeavours.

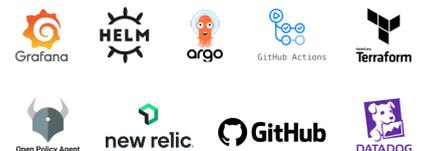


## Community Focused

What good is an island if no one wants to live or visit there? Last but certainly not least, we know that successful platforms are the ones which are able to adequately serve and adapt to the needs of the various people and communities who use them. This is why it's crucial to recognise relying on technology alone is not sufficient! Ensuring team structures and processes supporting broader platform engineering initiatives are fit for purpose is key to unlocking true freedom and productivity.

**Protip:** Explore Team Topologies as part of your toolbox for designing an effective platform engineering capability.

## Some Key Platform Engineering & Internal Developer Platform Tools



## FIND OUT MORE

Click here to download our PDF on Platform Engineering or get in touch to find out how we can help you in this space!



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