9 BEST AUTOMATION TOOLS
for IT managers

tech. rev

At its best, IT management is strategic. Rather than simply reacting to network and infrastructure problem, the best managers automate routine tasks to come up with ways that can drive their organisation forward.

Of course, to get to that point, the automation aspect of the process has to be done correctly. If you give up control over some tasks required by your technology department, you better make sure it's in good hands.

That, above all, requires the installation and management of tools and platforms designed to help you manage your responsibilities. So without further ado, here are the 9 best automation tools for IT managers currently on the market.

ANSIBLE

1.

Ansible

Ansible is an engine more than a tool. It makes automation simple, from application deployment, configuration management, cloud provisioning and intra-service orchestration. Key to success is its open source environment, which means that the product is self-learning - adding new modules and functionality every month.

The platform's Tower product allows your business to scale its automation. From scheduling jobs to tracking your IT inventory, you can take care of workflows and system maintenance that would otherwise consume significant time.

2.

servicenow

ServiceNow

The value proposition is simple: ServiceNow makes IT work better. A closer look at the platform reveals just how the tool accomplishes that feat.

First, ServiceNow integrates on-premise solutions into a simple, cloud-based IT management system. That integration happens seamlessly, taking away the constant need to build manual bridges or transfer data.

But that's not where it ends. Through its dashboard, the platform also provides a real-time map of the health of your network, updated constantly for better monitoring. Add to that the ability to automate security and customer-based tasks and the time-saving benefits become another crucial advantage of ServiceNow.

3.

Chef

Don't be fooled by the simplistic names. Among DevOps developers, Chef is an indispensable tool. It automates your entire IT infrastructure through a simple process: turning it into code.

As a result, several essential IT tasks can be automated. During development, iterations of testing can ensure that the final product performs exactly as desired. In production, the Chef client turns into the regular QA management that checks and validates processes continually.

The result is nearly seamless scalability. Whether you manage 5 or 5,000 servers, the tasks required to keep them running and continually improve their performance can be automated. From configuration to QA, automation saves time while also improving performance.

CHEF ™

CODE CAN

tech.revolution

4.

NINTEX

Nintex

What if you could not just automate, but optimise your data processes? That's the core value proposition of Nintex, one of the leading IT automation tools across the world. Through Nintext, workflows are built in the cloud and shared via SharePoint.

The potential applications are extensive. Helpdesk requests can be automatically received and routed to the right individuals. Software and firmware updates can be monitored and track without needing extensive human touches. Finally, provisioning requests and message notifications can be easily automated for better workflow and improved communication.

5.

Automate

A service with a name so on the nose, it just had to be on this list. As its title suggests, Automate is designed specifically to make your IT processes less manual and time-consuming. It builds its value proposition on robotic process automation (RPA), done through drag and drop tasks that require little to no coding knowledge.

But of course, the potential benefits go beyond RPA. Automate is scalable to enterprise levels, ensuring increased integration regardless of the size of your technology needs. Finally, an integrated analytics and control dashboard helps you keep track of the success of your processes to ensure nothing falls through the cracks.

6.

Grafana

As hinted at with some of the solutions above, analytics is a crucial part of IT automation. If you cannot monitor your data and processes in a timely and easy-to-process fashion, you risk falling behind or making the wrong decisions in implementing your solution of choice and integrating your network.

Grafana aims to automate the data collection and analytics process. A simple dashboarding platform, it pulls in data from your entire infrastructure to show time series analytics, host availability data, and more. It's an open source software that, thanks to its base in the cloud, is accessible from anywhere in the world.

tech.revolution

7. Puppet

Within the suite of Puppet products, IT managers will find an automation solution that works for them. Puppet enterprise delivers a scaled, powerful platform designed to deliver and operate software without the manual tasks that tend to suck up valuable time. On the other end of the spectrum, Puppet Bolt allows for simple task automation in an open source environment.

Much of the software's core capabilities are oriented toward application development. If your IT team is mainly focused on daily operations, this might not be the perfect solution. That said, some security and infrastructure capability is worth exploring even in that situation.

SALTSTACK

8. SaltStack

Speaking of security: this is the area where SaltStack tends to shine. Companies like Adobe use the platform specifically to ensure IT compliance with security protocols and for good reason. The company's enterprise solution is perfect for any company looking to maintain and improve their security and compliance.

Intelligent, event-driven compliance checks can be easily automated. Visualization of audit results helps to ensure consistent follow-up and continued compliance. Finally, an always-on auditing structure ensures security of data and operations in both data centre and software environments.

9.

Coseer

Looking for the next step in IT process automation? Coseer may have just the product for you. Put simply; it adds another step to the already convenient task of automating your workflows: artificial intelligence.

Through machine learning, the platform is able to automate otherwise manual tasks while embracing a continuous improvement mindset. Tasks that used to take days of manual attention can now take milliseconds.

The potential applications range across sectors. A chatbot allows you to better communicate with your customers on an automated basis. Structured data can be easily extracted and analysed without extensive manual labour. Finally, complex workflows (such as contract management) can be automated and improved over time.

What would a successful IT department be without help from some technology? With the right automation tools, you can ensure that your focus remains strategic even as the more tactical aspect of your responsibilities are taken care of. The above tools help you accomplish just that.

Subscribe

Subscribe to TechRevolution today to keep track of the trends and industry news that will help you succeed as a leader in IT.

tech.revolution

Join our community of forward thinkers and don't skip a beat in the world of tech.