The Paved Road at Netflix: At the Junction of Freedom and Responsibility

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Freedom and Responsibility at Netflix

Netflix Culture: Freedom & Responsibility

https://www.slideshare.net/reed2001/culture-1798664
Freedom
Responsibility

- Remote Process Communication
- Service Discovery
- Monitoring and Alerting
- Incident Management
- Logging
- Security
- Reliable and Repeatable Builds and Deployments
- … and more
A more common alternative …
Describing the Paved Road
The Paved Road is ...

A concept, formalizing a set of expectations and commitments between the centralized teams and our engineering customers
The Paved Road provides ... 

Well-integrated, supported machinery to enable engineers to focus on delivering their core business value and to socialize the centralized team’s support.
The Paved Road is NOT mandatory

Individual teams may choose not to use the Paved Road at any time
Where’s that next great idea coming from?
Paving the Road

Investments to pave a road (or elements of it) are made in partnership with the consuming team, striving to understand the net-value of the effort, and prioritizing against other initiatives.
Making it Work
Not all paved roads are equal
Java: best
JavaScript: getting better
Python: there’s pavement …
Streamline Developer Experience, but don’t implement as Least Common Denominator
Newt

- Project Bootstrapping with relevant hooks
- Desktop/laptop setup
- Integration with CI and Netflix Services
- Build/Test code with Docker Container
- Highly configurable
App Type flexible so that individual teams can own
Newt App Types

- Java
- Docker
- Node.js
- Ruby on Rails
- NodeQuark
- Titus cron
- Documentation Sites
- Development Roots
General Philosophy
Formalize commitments with stakeholders
Encourage Informed Adventures, not accidental detours
Identify common patterns across teams
Empower centralized teams to innovate
Leave your ego at the door
Socialize Change
Share Ideas in Technical Circles
Break through the Information Overload
The Payoff
Engineers can focus on their domains
Reduces friction and cognitive load
Streamlines security and other critical functions
Best of Breed solutions take root
Reduces support cost
Returning from an Adventure?
welcome back!
The adventurer charts the course back
The adventurer charts the course back

But … be flexible
The adventurer charts the course back

But … be flexible

And help them bring back what they learned!
Thank you

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