



my deployment platform is a shell script

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2024-04-09

like many people, i fell in love with free software because i could install it. i'd come home from work and install a bunch of software.

what fun! tee hee! a playground and i'm the prince!

but eventually, relentlessly, it all starts to feel more like a horror show.

proxmox needs an upgrade! *SPOOKY WIND*
how the fuck does k8s work again?? *SPOOKY CRICKETS*
promql *EXISTENTIAL SCREAM*

i'm too old now - i'm more fickle with my time. i like things that work for years with as little interaction from me as possible.

when it comes to my own projects, i always prioritize maintainability.

to that end, i built a little deployment system that i run on a single virtual machine - it's a shell script!

i run it every minute via cron.

here's the script, in its entirety:

```
#!/bin/sh

println() {
  printf "%s\n" "$1" >> /root/gocicd.log
}

die() {
  printf "%s\n" "$1" >> /root/gocicd.log
  exit 1
}

cd /root
for project in $(ls go-cicd); do
  cd "/root/go-cicd/$project" 2>&1 >> /root/gocicd.log
```

```
git fetch origin 2>&l >> /root/gocicd.log
if git status | grep -q behind; then
  println "$(date): building $project"
  git merge origin/main ||
  git merge origin/master ||
  die "could not merge $project"
go build ||
  die "could not build $project"
mv "$project" "/usr/local/bin/$project"
cat <<EOF >/etc/init.d/$project"
#!/sbin/openrc-run

supervisor="supervise-daemon"
command="/usr/local/bin/$project"
directory="/root/go-cicd/$project"
EOF
service "$project" restart
fi
done
```

whenever i make an upstream change to any of my tracked projects, it is cloned, built, and running within 60 seconds.

this gives me a lot of joy. the blog post you're reading right now was deployed using this system (j3s.sh is a go application).

this has worked for many years with no maintenance at all!

my script will never:

- go down
- require an upgrade
- force me to migrate
- surprise me
- keep me up at night

all of this makes jes very happy.

digging in a little, the contents of the go-cicd dir look like this:

```
$ ls go-cicd/
existentialcrisis.sh  jackal          nekobot
j3s.sh                vore            neoarkbot
```

these are all of my "tracked projects".

to start tracking a new project, i only need to clone a repository:

```
$ cd go-cicd
$ git clone git.j3s.sh/newproject
```

now whenever a new commit is made to
git.j3s.sh/newproject, it is deployed within 60 seconds.

ez.

here's a little taste of the log file:

```
$ tail -n 5 go-cicd.log
Thu Feb  8 00:13:12 UTC 2024: building vore
Fri Feb  9 22:08:25 UTC 2024: building vore
Mon Apr  8 02:07:00 UTC 2024: building j3s.sh
Mon Apr  8 02:59:00 UTC 2024: building j3s.sh
Tue Apr  9 21:11:00 UTC 2024: building vore
```

cool! i wonder what happened in march.
(oh, i moved to Virginia, right)

i recognize that this script is pretty limited. it can
only deploy go lang applications to my alpine system, but
that's exactly the point i'm trying to prove:

a little, specific solution might be easier to maintain
and straight up more enjoyable than a larger, more
general system.

i spent maybe 10 minutes writing this script in December
of 2021, and i'm proud of how reliable it has been.

consider keeping your little things little.

it worked for little old me.

until next time, with love from virginia,

lil jes

follow me on [mastodon!](#)

last updated 2024-04-09T00:00:00.000Z