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5 DevOps startups to bet your career on in 2019

Rosalie Chan and Julie Bort Jan 6, 2019, 9:00 AM



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DevOps, the term for a philosophy of combining software development and

operations, is turning into a big business. As software continues to eat the world, the methodology is helping developers write more software, faster.

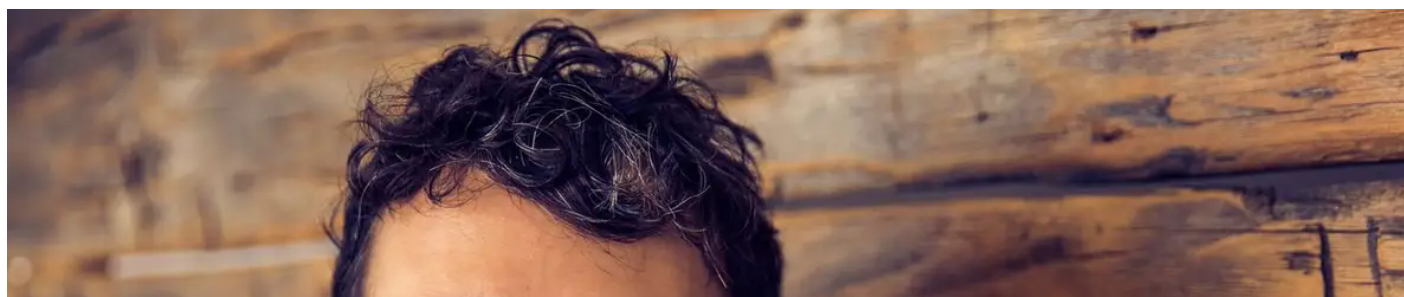
Just a few years ago, investors [would have balked](#) at developer-focused startups. But in 2018, the industry proved that it's here to stay. Microsoft [acquired GitHub](#), Google Cloud announced it's snapping up a [DevOps research firm](#), and now, developers want in. DevOps startups range from ones that help companies [release code faster](#) to ones that help [information-technology departments keep up](#).

It's not just in terms of mergers and acquisitions, either. The [most in-demand job](#) that recruiters are looking for on LinkedIn is that of a DevOps engineer. As those roles fill up, they'll need DevOps-focused tools to help them do their jobs. Enter the new class of DevOps startups that are helping plug that gap.

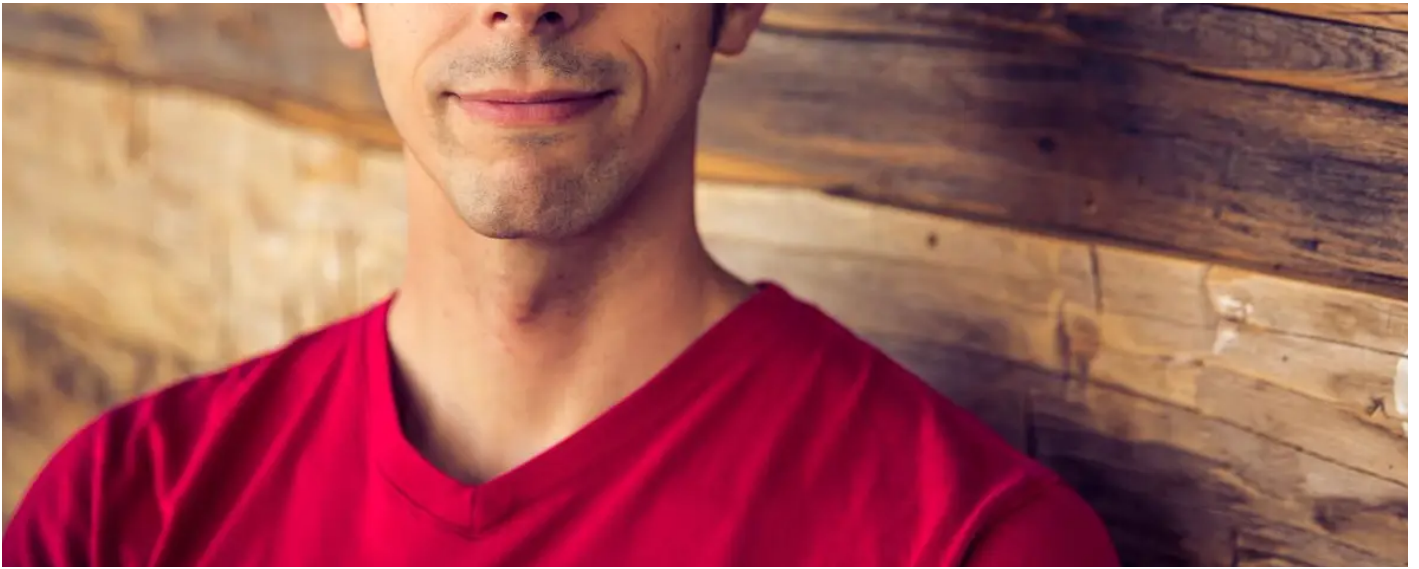
We looked at a variety of factors when [selecting this list](#), including the experience of leaders and founders, the reputations of investors, and the amount of funding raised along with valuations, based on data from online finance database Pitchbook, keeper of such records. We also selected startups at a variety of stages, from just starting out to well established.

Here are the five DevOps startups to bet your career on in 2019:

NPM: a package manager



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NPM CEO Isaac Schlueter. NPM

Valuation: \$48 million

Total raised to date: \$18.6 million

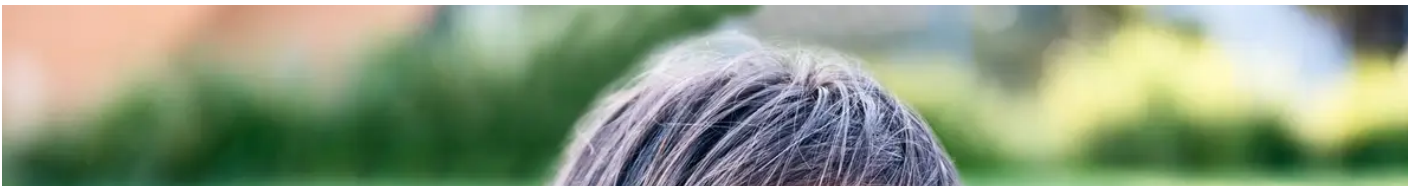
Year founded: 2014

HQ: Oakland, California

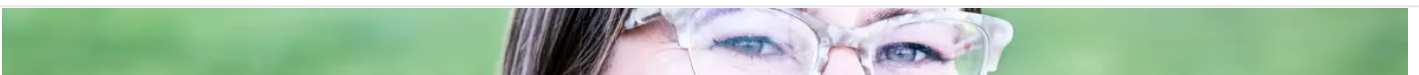
What it does: NPM manages Node.js, which is one of the world's largest software registries and helps JavaScript developers easily share chunks of code.

Why it's hot: NPM has benefitted greatly from the DevOps boom, and in just the last four years it has already raised almost \$19 million. As Node.js continues to grow in popularity, NPM stands to benefit.

LaunchDarkly: an on/off switch for test features



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Harbaugh. LaunchDarkly

Valuation: \$90 million

Total raised to date: \$34.84 million

Year founded: 2014

HQ: Oakland, California

What it does: LaunchDarkly helps developers test and manage how new features get deployed to an app's users. With LaunchDarkly, customers can quickly manage features, switching them on and off for select batches of test users.

Why it's hot: When LaunchDarkly first tried to [raise seed funding](#) in 2014, investors laughed. But fast forward to now, and DevOps is all the rage. LaunchDarkly, a DevOps startup, has proved that it can help with the practice of [deploying code faster](#), something that is going to become increasingly important in the years to come.

Snyk: hunting through your software for threats

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Snyk founders Danny Grander, Guy Podjarny, and Assaf Hefetz. Snyk

Valuation: \$100 million

Total raised to date: \$32.04 million

Year founded: 2015

HQ: London

What it does: Snyk automates the process of finding and fixing vulnerabilities in open-source software. In other words, it continuously keeps a lookout for security issues in your code and fixes them.

Why it's hot: This year, Snyk raised \$22 million on a \$100 million valuation. As breaches and vulnerabilities become more common and continue to make headlines, more venture capitalists are [investing in security](#). This kind of approach will help

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GitLab: a high-flying rival to Microsoft's GitHub

GitLab founders Dmitriy Zaporozhets and Sid Sijbrandij. [GitLab](#)

Valuation: \$1.12 billion

Total raised to date: \$165.82 million

Year founded: 2011

HQ: San Francisco

What it does: GitLab is used for project planning to help developers manage, monitor, and collaborate on code.

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that allows developers to test code faster and more often. DevOps is where investors want to throw their money, and GitLab is a leader in the space. Just look at this post

want to [throw their money](#), and GitLab is a leader in the space. Just look at this past year: In September 2018, GitLab [closed \\$100 million](#) in a round led by Iconiq Capital, and just three months later, Goldman Sachs invested [another \\$20 million](#).

PagerDuty: coordinated IT alerts

PagerDuty CEO Jennifer Tejada. PagerDuty

Valuation: \$1.3 billion

Total raised to date: \$173.70 million

Year founded: 2009

HQ: San Francisco

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What it does: PagerDuty helps companies quickly respond to IT incidents and alerts the best people to respond to any given incident, giving information about what

happened and providing analysis — a vital tool in a DevOps workflow, where incidents have to be resolved quickly so the pace can continue.

Why it's hot: PagerDuty has been named one of the [top companies](#) in DevOps. In September 2018, PagerDuty [raised \\$90 million](#), and rumor has it that it's gearing up for initial public offering.

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