DEVOPS INSTITUTE®

Unlock
exclusive benefits
with PeopleCert Plus!

Join Now!

DevOps Leader®

VERSION 2

Global Best Practice

For leaders and professionals ready to drive culture, transformation, and business value with DevOps!

Course Description

PeopleCert

Published by PeopleCert International Limited
Published in Cyprus
Publication printed in Greece or reproduced electronically in Greece

Version 2.2.1 (July 2026)

Copyright © 2023-2026 PeopleCert International Limited and its affiliates ("PeopleCert")
All rights reserved. No part of this document or the information in it may be copied, distributed, disclosed or used other than as authorized by PeopleCert. Information identified as being under a Creative Commons license may be used in accordance with that license. ITIL®, PRINCE2®, DEVOPS INSTITUTE®, LANGUAGECERT®, and the Swirl logo are registered trademarks of PeopleCert.

Disclaimer
This publication is designed to provide helpful information to the recipient. Although care has been taken by PeopleCert in preparation of this publication, no representation or warranty (either express or implied) is given by PeopleCert with respect to the completeness, accuracy, or suitability of the information or advice contained within it, and PeopleCert shall not be held responsible for any loss or damage whatsoever relating to such information or advice.

DevOps Leader® course description

Overview

The DevOps Leader® course teaches essential practices for those who need to lead, or participate in, a transformation to high-performance DevOps. Transforming people, processes, and technologies through a DevOps evolution requires skills, tools, innovative thinking, and transformational leadership. Leaders up, down, and across an organization must align and collaborate to break down silos and evolve the organization and its capabilities.

The course highlights the human dynamics of cultural change. The course introduces leadership practices for advanced DevOps capabilities including AI, Platform Engineering, DevSecOps, Observability, AIOps and Value-Stream Management Platforms. Participants are provided practices, methods, and tools to engage the DevOps spectrum of people, processes and technologies through the use of real-life scenarios and case studies. Upon completion of the course, participants will have practical takeaways to use on-the-job such as how to conduct Current-State and Future-State Value Stream Mapping.

The course is built on industry-leading DevOps sources, extracted from real-life best practices of leading DevOps initiatives. The course teaches the key differences and emerging practices for DevOps ways of working through leadership in a fast-paced DevOps and Agile environment.

This certification positions learners to successfully complete the DevOps Leader® exam.

Course objectives

The **learning objectives** for DevOps Leader® include a practical **understanding** of:

- the DevOps landscape and benefits
- the mindset and mental models
- the key differences between DevOps IT and traditional IT
- the target operating models and organizational design
- performance management, rewards and motivation
- preparing investment cases
- focusing on value outcomes
- the ideas for organizing workflows
- empowerment and participation
- defining meaningful metrics
- Value Stream Mapping for benchmarking and improving DevOps
- driving cultural and behavioral change
- sustaining DevOps momentum.

Audience

The target audience for the DevOps Leader® course are professionals including:

- anyone leading a DevOps cultural transformation program
- change agents interested in modern IT leadership and organizational change approaches
- business stakeholders, directors, managers, and leaders
- DevOps and DevSecOps directors, managers, and leaders
- Site Reliability Engineering directors, managers, and leaders
- cybersecurity directors, managers, and leaders
- IT directors, managers, and leaders
- DevOps and DevSecOps practitioners
- service, and product owners
- Agile coaches, Lean coaches, and Scrum masters
- consultants, system integrators and value-added resellers.

Official Training Materials (OTM) | Learner

- Learner Workbook (excellent post-class reference)
- Quick Reference Guide (QRG)
- Sample documents, templates, tools and techniques
- Access to additional value-added resources and communities
- Glossary of terms

Prerequisites

An understanding and knowledge of common DevOps terminology and concepts and related work experience are recommended.

Certification exam

Successfully passing (65%) the 60-minute examination, consisting of 40 multiple-choice questions, leads to DevOps Leader® (DOL) Certificate. This DEVOPS INSTITUTE® certification is governed and maintained by PeopleCert.

Course outline

- **Course introduction**
  - Course goals
  - Course agenda
- **Module 1: DevOps and transformational leadership**
  - Current definitions of DevOps
  - Benefits of DevOps
  - Transformational leadership
  - Soft skills
  - The Golden Circle
  - Lean Strategic Change Canvas
- **Module 2: Unlearning behaviours**
  - Psychological safety and neuroscience
  - Mindset and Mental Models
    - Cognitive Bias
  - Governance, Risk and Compliance (GRC) and DevOps
    - Bateson stakeholder map
    - Training from the back of the room
- **Module 3: Becoming a DevOps organization**
  - Where to start
  - How DevOps differs
    - Minimum Viable Product (MVP)
  - DevOps Kaizen
  - Building safety in
    - Helping people participate
- **Module 4: Measure to learn**
  - Creating a current Value Stream Map
  - Avoiding measure to target
- **Module 5: Measure to improve**
  - The Improvement Kata
    - Experimentation
    - Improvement opportunities
  - Creating a future Value Stream Map
- **Module 6: Target operating models and organizational design**
  - Conway's Law
  - Desired outcomes of DevOps
  - DevOps Target Operating Model (TOM) and Organizational Design (OD) principles
    - Agile at scale
  - Teal Organizations

- **Module 7: Articulating and socializing vision**
  - Organizational change
    - Performance management
    - Beyond budgeting
  - Empowering people
    - Wilbert's Quadrants
    - Karpman Drama Triangle and The Power of TED
  - Storytelling
- **Module 8: Maintaining energy and momentum**
  - Revolution, transformation, or evolution
    - The DevOps business case
  - Culture and climate
  - A high-trust culture
    - Dynamic learning organizations
  - Kolb's learning styles
    - Shared goals
- **Additional sources of information**
- **Exam preparations**
  - Exam requirements, question weighting, and terminology list
  - Sample exam review

DEVOPS INSTITUTE®

THE LANGUAGE OF COLLABORATION

ESG Commitment

PeopleCert has been accredited by Lloyd's Register, UK (now LRQA), in accordance with ISO 14001 for Environmental Management since 2006. Recognized through numerous awards, we remain committed to ESG leadership and the preservation of our planet.