Making Mobile Simple

Mobile CI/CD: Are you set up for delivery success?

by Gabrielle Earnshaw

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Why CI/CD matters for mobile app success

- Predictability
- Efficiency
- Risk reduction
- User trust

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Mobile CI/CD is different because:

- App Store approvals
- Manual store page updates
- Staged / promoted releases
- No rollback

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Other complexities

- MacOS needed for builds
- Mobile hardware for UI testing
- Provisioning & certificates
- Multiple workflows for staged releases
- Separate flows for iOS & Android
- Frequent tooling updates

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Signs of good mobile CI/CD

- Release to stores every 1-2 weeks
- Can build and release at any time
- Immediate internal testing
- Minimal maintenance overhead
- Build tracking - know which build is where
- Error-free releases

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🚩Mobile CI/CD red flags 1

- Release once a month or less
- Can’t build / release on demand
- Builds run on developer machines
- Manual uploads to stores
- Large maintenance effort

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🚩Mobile CI/CD red flags 2

- No CD to internal test
- Different CI/CD platforms for iOS & Android
- Releases postponed because of effort required
- Release stages hard to manage
- Wrong versions / bugs released

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Recommended mobile CI/CD approaches

- 🟢 Mobile-specific CI/CD platforms - best choice
- 🟡 GitHub Actions - good but VERY expensive for mobile
- 🟠 General CI/CD platforms with mobile runners - complex setup and maintenance
- 🔴 Developer machines - upgrade ASAP!!!

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For more information about what's covered in this guide, read the full article:

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Have questions?

Visit my website to ask me anything

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