Release and Deployment Management

Release and deployment management aims to apply scheduled changes to IT infrastructure in an operational state. A release is the logical summary of all changes, while a deployment is the actual implementation of these changes. In the course of a release or deployment, the current configuration of an IT infrastructure is modified. Importing changes usually means that IT services are not available for the duration of the deployment process. In addition, modifying an executable configuration always entails the risk of unplanned ramifications, which may lead to disruptions and restrictions in availability. The release and deployment management activities indicated in Figure 28 are intended to minimize the risk of disruption following deployment, while also ensuring that the date and time selected for the deployment causes minimal (or no) disruption for the service recipient.

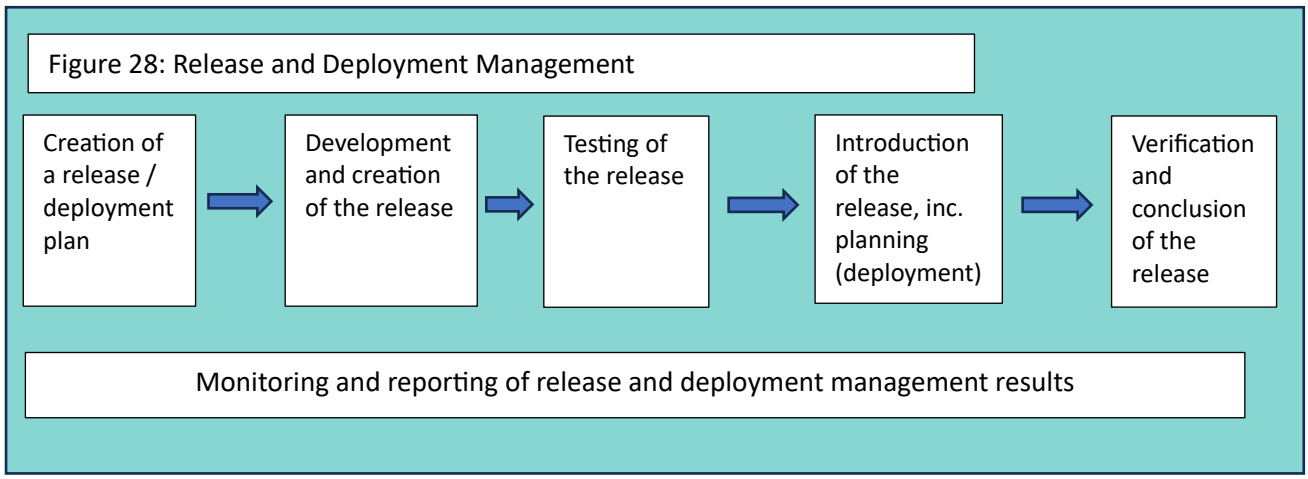

Figure 28: Release and Deployment Management

To this end, a release and deployment plan is created to plan and communicate the development and introduction of a release. Typically, numerous changes are combined in one release. The planned release is then developed. Alongside the further development and maintenance of IT components, all documentation required for development and operation must be compiled. After completion of the development work, the release is tested. Checks must be undertaken to verify the functionality of the release and to ensure that the rollback procedure planned for the release can be executed effectively. Once these tests have been successfully completed, detailed planning is carried out and the release is then implemented in the form of the deployment. In addition to software and hardware changes, all accompanying IT service management activities must be performed. These include updates to the CMDB and (where necessary) the service catalogue, the execution of change management processes and monitoring activities, as well as the adaptation of contracts for the provision of IT services (if required).