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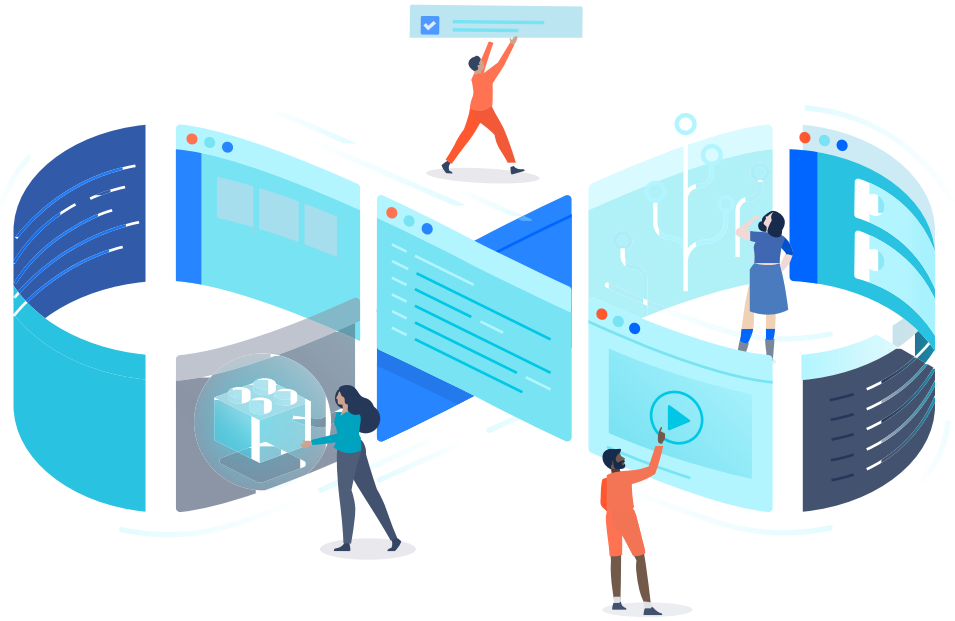
The Department of Defense's Platform One deploys Atlassian to provide modern DevSecOps services



At the 2021 Atlassian Government Symposium, James Hunt, lead Atlassian expert for Ascend, and Jeff Weatherford, Ascend's lead DevOps engineer, discussed their experience helping the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) advance its innovative Platform One DevSecOps environment using Atlassian best practices, tools, open platform, and inherent scalability. Ultimately, this initiative was made possible by consolidating their Atlassian Server products and migrating them to Data Center instances through shared services within the DoD. This resulted in a continuously secure, automated, governed, and easy to use DevSecOps services environment.

The DoD designed Platform One to accelerate new app development in the DoD. This would allow them to more rapidly overcome legacy technology debt and to enable the faster release of new capabilities–getting them into the hands of military personnel as quickly as possible. Since security is a top concern, the program prioritizes the development of hardened containers and secure, pre-approved software and configurations. Atlassian tools and best practices create a perfect fit for managing, tracking, and automating development workflows in the centralized, secure, and governed environment.

How Platform One made easy and secure DevSecOps a reality

The DoD needed the solution to be as easy to use as possible. According to Hunt, “Federal programs come up with great ideas for services all the time, but they are not always easy to use. Sometimes the time to value is lengthy because you have to get training on the product.” Platform One wanted to avoid this pitfall, so they made the certification and accreditation processes as easy as possible for DoD development teams. Development teams leveraging Platform One access a continuous ATO (authorization to operate), freeing their time to focus on developing apps and speeding application releases.

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Leveraging the benefits of a shared service, Platform One built the Advanced Battle Management System (ABMS) All Domain Common Environment, or “The Party Bus,” because it’s an easy ride that everybody wants to join. The Party Bus team designed the systems and deployed the stack using pre-configured, security-hardened containers that live inside the Iron Bank. The Iron Bank is a repository of secure, hardened containers – it helps to break down departmental silos and enable DevSecOps workflows, all while being tracked and managed by Atlassian tools. These containers are scanned regularly for security and come with a variety of safety controls that can flow down to the developer.

All DoD developers have to do is select the container they want in the application stack they need. The Party Bus team takes care of the rest: infrastructure, application support services, DevSecOps training and guidance, security patches, and more. And, all of this is built on their hardened containers that have already gone through approval and leverage a continuous ATO, which has been made possible by a shared service.

How the DoD implements Atlassian best practices for Platform One

Platform One started leveraging Atlassian services and applications early on in their development.

Best Practices	Atlassian Solution
Break down development silos	Atlassian tools streamline the build-out of apps and services–managing and tracking The Party Bus's single, secure container repository, "Iron Bank" (similar to a very secure Docker Hub for DoD developers).
Automate processes for more productivity	Atlassian creates an automated pipeline to serve up security-hardened containers. Jira Service Management consolidates support into one centralized place with automation to route requests quickly.
Secure data and control access	Ascend Integrated helps enable least privilege permission models by default for the Atlassian Confluence knowledge management platform using centralized management of authentication and authorization.
Scalability and availability	Atlassian Data Center provides the ability to automatically scale up or down based on active users in the system. A pre-staging area enables the testing and fixing of bugs before deploying apps into production environments.

As Hunt and Weatherford's discussion demonstrated, accelerating and modernizing application development using Atlassian tools makes development services secure and easy, allowing DoD development teams to release new capabilities faster.

Many government agencies can benefit from deploying Atlassian as a shared service. If you'd like to learn more about how Ascend Integrated did it, view the "Deploying Atlassian as a Shared Service Across Platform One and Beyond" on-demand video from Atlassian Government Symposium 2021.

Learn more at atlassian.com/government

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