Johnson Controls Accelerates Product Security with SD Elements

Security Compass' SD Elements platform reduces the development time for security requirements by over 30%, providing significant cost savings.

COMPANY	INDUSTRY	LOCATION	PERSON AND ROLE
Johnson Controls	**Manufacturing**	**U.S.**	**Brian Pitts** Sr Director – Governance, Architecture & Risk Management Global Product Security

Johnson Controls International (JCI), the global leader for smart, healthy and sustainable buildings transforms the environments where people live, work, learn and play. Through a portfolio of trusted names that include Tyco®, YORK®, and Metasys®, they offer a full range of systems and digital solutions that make your buildings smarter in industries such as healthcare, education, data centers and manufacturing.

Challenge

Streamlining facility operations, enhancing productivity, and increasing efficiency has become easier than ever, thanks to connected, digitally-enabled devices and applications. With greater access to building systems and data, comes greater risk. To address this risk, JCI has taken a proactive approach to cybersecurity to ensure their systems are protected.

Prior to implementing SD Elements, JCI's Global Product Security team was struggling with operationalizing their proactive security efforts. Security architects would spend a lot of time going through a highly manual security process for every project. Additionally, the development teams had a lot of security requirements to work through. This led to a higher volume of testing and extended the release cycle.

Solution

To add efficiencies, JCI chose SD Elements, a Balanced Development Automation platform, specifically designed to automate proactive security and compliance processes and provide actionable guidance to development teams. It was successfully implemented at JCI under the leadership of the Global Product Security team.

For the team at JCI, SD Elements offered some unique features, such as the adaptability of security requirements and the ability to gather information from developers themselves, that makes it a great fit for their needs. As Brian Pitts, Senior Director, Product Security Governance, Architecture & Risk Management, said "Our unique process is invaluable. Now with SD Elements in our toolchain, we get a good set of security requirements out-of-the-box, and we can add things that we know are a particular focus for us at Johnson Controls. SD Elements has given us an incredible level of flexibility as well as a user interface that makes it easier for developers to integrate security before and during code creation."

The value of SD Elements was quickly realized by developers. The platform's wizard-like survey asks security champions straight forward questions and guides them through the security requirement process. It prompts them regarding their specific projects, including their platform, compliance requirements, and architecture. SD Elements then factors in all of this information to provide each development team with a refined set of security requirements as easy-to-follow tasks. In addition, the SD Elements platform provides the ability to integrate with the development team's Application Lifecycle Management (ALM) tool.

SD Elements is quite unique. It is exactly what we needed to expedite and enable our teams' efforts in releasing secure products.

Our security champions and development teams saw first-hand how they can easily and quickly receive a tailored set of security requirements and clear development guidance. Since then, using SD Elements in their product development work has been a positive experience for them. Best of all, they've been shipping secure products with reduced time to market.

Brian Pitts
Sr Director – Governance, Architecture & Risk Management
Global Product Security

How Johnson Controls Integrates SD Elements in their Product Development Lifecycle

All of JCI's digital-enabled products - from HVAC, security and fire systems - goes through SD Elements.

Critical to their successful adoption of SD Elements is the tight integration between their product portfolio management process and planning tool, SD Elements, and their secure development life cycle (SDLC) process. The latter process overlays their product development and launch process, which has five stages. When a product concept enters the second stage, a corresponding project is created in SD Elements to ensure security is built into every product.

"SD Elements is a great addition to our integrated suite of security tools. The platform has enabled us to reduce the number of vulnerabilities found during downstream scans, thus reducing cycle time and allowing our developers to focus on creating and releasing cyber resilient solutions to the market."

Janet Bodenbach
Director, Product Security Integration, Johnson Controls

Business Impact

Significantly reduced time to market for secure products: SD Elements enabled JCI to significantly save time for product development as it streamlined and drove consistency in their security process — from information gathering to requirements grooming — and reduced developers' cycle time. Moreover, a high percentage of the security requirements generated out-of-the-box are not only applicable to their development teams' projects, but also come with clear secure coding guidance they can readily execute on. This was significant in enabling JCI to deliver secure products to market quickly.

Improved collaboration between Product Security & Development teams: With project specific security requirements, the interactions focus on remediating actionable security tasks identified by the platform while providing additional time for product development.

Simplified the audit process and obtained significant cost savings: SD Elements has made it easy for JCI to demonstrate compliance with multiple standards. It provides traceability as each task correlates to security requirements and standards.

SD Elements enabled JCI to achieve compliance with the coveted ISASecure® Secure Development Lifecycle Assurance Certification, which further demonstrates JCI's commitment in ensuring the cyber resilience of the products they bring to market.

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