

Software Factory uses SD Elements to Revolutionize Secure Software Development for the Department of Defense

Building Secure Software with Greater Efficiency and Effectiveness

INDUSTRY

U.S. Government
Department of Defense

LOCATION

USA

SD ELEMENTS

The United States' Department of Defense provides the military forces needed to deter war and ensure the nation's security.

Challenge

The Department of Defense (DoD) is pioneering a digital revolution. They are implementing a transformative enterprise DevSecOps initiative and overall technological change across the organization. Cybersecurity is at the forefront of their priorities. They knew their secure software development processes of using spreadsheets and manual reporting were outdated and very time consuming. They also knew that they were limited in their ability to identify and track the execution of security and compliance requirements. Their processes were not automated nor easily reportable.

Their software approval process, called "Authority To Operate (ATO)," allowed entities permission to connect systems to federal networks following a series of validated security steps. Using this process, **it often took between six months to one year for software to be approved.** These processes were not scalable for producing thoroughly secure software in a timely or cost effective manner. They needed to modernize their ATO process to achieve their security and delivery objectives.

The DoD believes that the entire future of war is based on the adoption of modern technologies that allow for adaptability. Proactivity is essential for addressing any potential threats and the security of highly confidential information. Not only did they need the ability to make changes to fix problems as they arise while in production, but they also needed to accelerate their existing processes.

To support their DevSecOps initiative, they had created software factories. **The overall goal of one of their factories is to create mission critical software and bring tangible value to the warfighters.** This factory's team includes software developers, designers, and product managers, enabled by vendor partners and support staff.

To transform the software development and delivery processes at the DoD, this factory was looking for industry leading partners and tools to support their mission. They needed access to the latest technologies to remain current and to make it easier for technology adoption.

Creating tangible value to the warfighter through the timely delivery of secure, mission critical software.

Solution

This DoD software factory was very interested in piloting innovative software and technologies. They were looking to modernize their software practice and built an integrated security practice from the ground up. After partnering with Security Compass and learning about the SD Elements solution, they initiated a small scale implementation. After testing the platform and finding success early, they quickly expanded their implementation. They realized great benefits early, and their development teams were relying on the system. They found that SD Elements provided them with a much better solution.

SD Elements supported the implementation of continuous ATO (cATO) which allows for pushing software to production multiple times per day without having to assess the software manually. SD Elements provides them with several additional benefits:



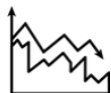
Faster Time to Delivery - Secure software is more quickly delivered to the service members that need it. With the built in comprehensive requirements content in SD Elements, it allows them to automate, remove process inefficiencies, and address risks faster.



Cost Savings - The efficiencies in the faster deployment of secure applications allows for significant cost savings in remediation and audit management costs. Often it is the new application being developed and deployed that also results in even greater cost savings. For example, some applications significantly reduced fuel consumption resulting in both positive economic and environmental impacts.



Scalability - The solution was easily scaled through a successful roll out across the organization. The new workflow with continuous ATO enables software code to be tested automatically, pushed out faster and much more frequently with greater confidence.



Greater Security & Compliance - Implementing SD Elements provides a more comprehensive solution for identifying and resolving risks and ensuring compliance. The knowledge base is consistently updated to reflect the changing risk and compliance landscape, enabling them to reduce any associated risks and requirements in their environment. With the assistance of the Security Compass Enterprise Delivery Services team, they also added their own required content.

This software factory enabled the DoD to modernize their software development and delivery processes to be more efficient and effective. **SD Elements supports the more cost effective adoption of DevSecOps for continuous ATO. The warfighters are now getting the tools they need much faster to support their mission.**

For more information on SD Elements, visit us at <https://www.securitycompass.com/sdelements>

HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Faster Delivery of Secure Software
- ▶ Supporting Continuous ATO
- ▶ Greater Security & Compliance
- ▶ Improved Efficiencies and Effectiveness

Security Compass is a leader in helping customers proactively manage cybersecurity risk, without slowing down business.

SecurityCompass