

Pioneering a FISMA High workload in Amazon Web Services

Easy Dynamics helped DHS leverage the speed and flexibility of the cloud while improving security and operational performance.

Background

Information sharing is the centerpiece of DHS's mission, and its Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) is integral to supporting public safety. HSIN allows mission operators and first responders to share Sensitive But Unclassified (SBU) information between federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, international, and private sector partners for emergency response, disaster relief, and major events. To support emerging needs of first responders and improve the value of information sharing, DHS needed to take advantage of the speed and flexibility of the cloud.

Because managing SBU requires a set of high security and process standards to meet compliance objectives, DHS turned to Easy Dynamics to pioneer a FISMA High workload in Amazon Web Services – a milestone that had not been accomplished by the department. Our managers and engineers leveraged a mature Agile and DevSecOps practice to support the task and quickly engage with the department.

The Challenges

The department lacked a process to accredit FISMA High workloads in a public cloud, while looming data center closures and increased costs were making it cost prohibitive to remain in the data center. Enhancements to the data center were also not keeping pace with stakeholder demands. Finally, HSIN contains

stateless and real-time rich media (desktop and video conference), making network latency objectives a challenge while maintaining Trusted Internet Connection (TIC) compliance.

Our Solution

To support the volume of activity, Easy Dynamics tailored Atlassian to manage multiple simultaneous projects to track engineering, migration, and compliance activities. The team conducted an Analysis of Alternatives for over a dozen products, helped identify cloud-ready software that can reside on IaaS, and selectively introduced FedRAMP's high PaaS services. A core virtual private cloud (VPC) was built to secure, orchestrate, and automate change to multiple VPCs used to manage mission applications that deliver Information Sharing services to stakeholders. A network VPC was designed to route traffic through a Secure Cloud Interconnect to communicate with department data centers and achieve TIC compliance.

The Measurable Benefits

Improved Security

Security controls are now automated to achieve predictable configuration, and changes to controls are detected and resolved autonomously.

Improved Service Performance

Our team delivered faster time to functionality and

increased releases by 60% within first 12 months, while reducing the time to make environmental changes by 75%. We also enabled the rapid development of new capabilities and services.

Reduced Costs

Automation enabled scaling at a fraction of the cost of data center, and Total Cost of Owner decreased by 30%.

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FEDERAL EXPERIENCE

- Department of Agriculture
- Department of Homeland Security
- Defense Information Systems Agency
- Defense Logistics Agency
- Naval Special Warfare Command
- Federal Law Enforcement Training Center
- National Institute of Standards and Technology
- Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency
- Internal Revenue Service
- General Services Administration
- Department of the Treasury
- Health & Human Services
- Social Security Administration
- Department of Education

CORE CYBERSECURITY CAPABILITIES

- Enterprise ICAM
- Cloud Modernization
- Automation
- Zero Trust
- Risk Management

