

It All Starts with Collaboration



*Innovation and modernization require a collaborative culture as well as enterprise development tools that accelerate releases, incorporate security and improve quality. In this Q&A, **Shayla Sander**, state and local channel manager for Atlassian, and **Ken Urban**, solutions engineer for Atlassian, share insights into the DevSecOps approach and how organizations can succeed at modernization.*



How has the COVID-19 pandemic influenced legacy modernization?

Sander: The pandemic didn't so much change modernization efforts as much as it hit the gas pedal. Every aspect of modernization has been accelerated. The adoption of cloud technology, for example, has accelerated by 10 years or more since the start of the pandemic.

At a high level, what is a DevSecOps approach, and how does it facilitate legacy modernization efforts, including those focused on cloud-based solutions?

Urban: A DevSecOps approach takes DevOps culture and methodologies and incorporates security from the very beginning. This brings enormous value to legacy modernization efforts. Many legacy systems were built using waterfall methodologies. That means they may not be regularly scanned for vulnerabilities or they were simply not built to handle modern scale. DevSecOps helps you avoid

these issues. First, you will be more agile, as we've seen with DevOps. Second, you will build systems that are inherently more secure. Instead of thinking about security after a system is built and in production, you are doing so from day zero and doing so continuously even after you've "shipped" it. This is especially critical in cloud environments where shared resources and multi-tenancy are the norm rather than the exception.

What best practices should organizations implement to realize the full potential of their modernization efforts?

Urban: There are many, but here are a few: 1) Require your staff to get trained. Developers need cybersecurity training to keep up; testers need to know how to find security vulnerabilities; and so on. 2) Plan early and often, and don't hesitate to change course. Try to be detailed; it's not just about features. 3) Plan for attacks on your systems. 4) Automate where appropriate and feed metrics back to a report that actually gets reviewed. Try running regular security scans against production systems as well as running static code analysis. And do something with the results. 5) Don't hesitate to call in an expert to consult; modernization can be a difficult transition.

How can organizations stay on track, control costs and remain functional as they modernize legacy infrastructure and applications? What are the main capabilities and tools they'll need?

Urban: Start by scanning regularly to identify the vulnerabilities in legacy

systems; in other words, know your threat surface. Shore it up with some development effort — using DevSecOps methodologies. Use a tool like Jira to plan the work. It's important to get everyone to agree on basic things like the definition of "done," how often releases should happen, and so on. Then use a tool like Jira Align to track projects at the agency level to make sure the work is happening in the right order and is on track.

With important data dispersed across the enterprise environment, what do organizations need to keep in mind as they modernize?

Sander: It's important to identify the types of data, systems and tools that are in place. Modernization efforts that don't evaluate process flow are often flawed. It's also important to identify and document the knowledge silos that your agency has created over time. Knowledge silos exist extensively in the public sector, and having them spread throughout the agency wastes time and consumes scarce resources.

How does collaboration support IT modernization and how can organizations foster a team culture?

Sander: Knowledge sharing and opening up your agency culture is a big part of fostering collaboration. By documenting and sharing best practices, the organization can maximize each contributor's expertise. It also helps break down cultural silos to ensure everyone is working toward the same goals.

Unlock Your Agency's Digital Transformation with Atlassian

Accelerate your digital initiatives using the right tools and expertise.



Atlassian's Datasheet focuses on an extensible **DevSecOps** solution set that functions as your agency's operating system for **game-changing capabilities**.

[View the Resource](#)