

## Succeeding with software in the modern digital world

Government agencies should look to Silicon Valley to understand how to build, modernize and deliver software





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**HERE IS A NEW** imperative. On the modern battlefield – literal, in the case of national defense - "software-enabled" organizations are poised to win. On this battlefield, your advantage is your software delivery cycle time: how frequently you can accredit and field software into the hands of users to address current mission needs. Long cycle times expose vulnerability to adversaries who use modern software tools and practices to deliver software more frequently, gain competitive advantage and disrupt your mission. Companies like Amazon, Uber and Netflix excel at modern software and continue to thwart their competitors.

Digital transformation is hard. That's why USAF's Kessel Run, Space Force's Kobayashi Maru and the DOD Special Operations community partnered with VMware Pivotal Labs to build modern software factories inside the Defense Department. VMware Pivotal Labs is a modern software consulting practice that enables the U.S. government to deliver incredible business and mission outcomes with cycle times that rival the most forward-leaning Silicon Valley startups.

Transformation journeys often begin by tackling an acute problem that a senior mission owner can no longer tolerate.

Teams meet with that mission owner and actual users to discuss the problem and desired outcomes, as opposed to discussing solutions and requirements.

VMware Pivotal Labs then enables that organization to deliver accredited, mission-ready software to production

to solve those problems, quickly, continuously and at enterprise scale.

## Innovating at the speed of Silicon Valley while controlling risk

The key is to continuously reduce risk. By leveraging Lean, User-Centered Design, Agile and DevSecOps, organizations ensure they are always building what matters most to the mission while avoiding requirement creep, budget overruns and costly delays.

By leveraging the Tanzu Kubernetes platform, organizations streamline software delivery through pipelines, automate away technical complexity, benefit from the curated lifecycle management of open-source technologies, leverage security control inheritance, and incorporate automated tests and

scans to continuously satisfy the Risk Management Framework. Security is baked in throughout so teams can achieve accreditation and deploy to production within weeks of kickoff and then continuously deliver into production with actual users and real data.

When teams deliver accredited software this early and often, risk is continuously minimized, value is maximized and transformation accelerates.

## How agile are you? 4 key questions about software delivery

It can be difficult to differentiate between true Agile software delivery and what the Defense Innovation Board (DIB) refers to as "Agile BS." VMware Pivotal Labs uses the following four





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questions to measure their efforts in alignment with DIB recommendations.

- 1. Are you in production? Is your software accredited and available in your operational environment today?
- 2. Do you have user adoption? Are actual users getting operational value from your software today?
- 3. Who cares? Is your software capability moving the needle for the mission or business?

4. What is your cycle time? How frequently are you delivering functioning, accredited software into users' hands?

By combining VMware Pivotal Labs methods and VMware Tanzu technology, federal organizations can deliver software as quickly, frequently and securely as best-of-breed Silicon Valley companies. Organizations that partner with VMware Pivotal Labs quickly

demonstrate the capability to answer yes, yes, yes and days to those four key questions and move the mission or business needle in ways that unlock digital, cultural and organizational transformation.

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