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# DevSecOps and Government Cybersecurity

## How Enquizit Helped the GSA Unlock the Power of the AWS Cloud

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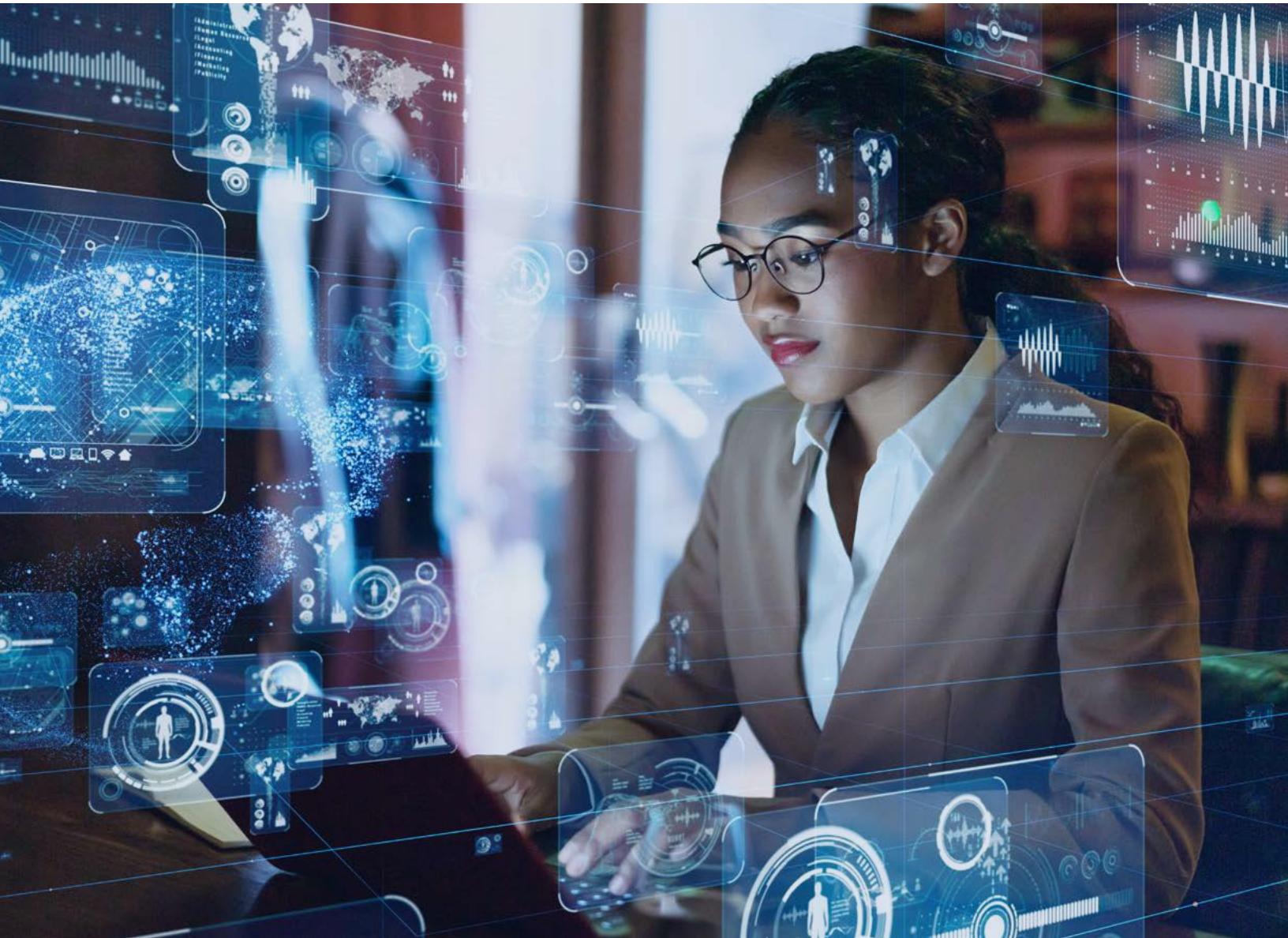

The General Services Administration (GSA) is a branch of the U.S. government that supports critical day-to-day operations for dozens of federal agencies. Their work includes technical support and cybersecurity, a job that has become even more crucial as the number of cyberattacks continues to increase, worldwide. Facing a rising tide of threats, the GSA partnered with Enquizit to move their organization into a more agile security system in the AWS Cloud—and to help their entire team feel empowered to run it.

How do they do it? Here are five principles Enquizit used to shift the GSA's system to a DevSecOps approach in the AWS Cloud.

## 1 Collaborative Security Assessment and Authorization

The foundation of Enquizit's cybersecurity methodology is assessment and authorization (A&A) support, a comprehensive analysis of an agency's security protocols. Security A&A requires a deep knowledge of security best practices and open communication with an agency's internal team. Collaboration is key to success, and the Enquizit team worked closely with the GSA's Approving Officials (AOs) to define goals for the new security system, align expectations for the project, and better understand how the GSA's applications are configured and used.

## 2 DevSecOps Support for Agile Application Delivery

Enquizit is more than just a security provider. They also offer DevSecOps support so the GSA can deliver applications and services faster—and maintain those apps over time. DevSecOps is a combination of philosophies, practices, and tools that increase an organization's ability to evolve and improve products faster than they could using traditional software development.

Since the GSA had been operating under a more traditional staffing model, Enquizit's first step involved creating playbooks for DevSecOps and continuous integration/continuous delivery (CI/CD) that would empower GSA's teams to deploy new apps much more efficiently. Enquizit also improved overall platform capabilities by providing tooling that GSA's application teams could easily integrate—instead of rebuilding. And to ensure that the GSA could take full ownership of the project, the Enquizit team developed an assessment method to identify level of adoption by various teams and propose guidelines for improvement.

## 3 Better Security Through Automation

Even with a strong "security first" mentality and the latest tools, organizations are only as secure as their least experienced employee—or their employee who bypasses procedure in a rush to meet a deadline. To protect the GSA from vulnerabilities caused by human error, Enquizit built automation into the agency's day-to-day operations and applications. That means that agency employees can work smarter while staying secure.

## 4 Continuous Integration/ Continuous Delivery

Continuous integration/continuous delivery (CI/CD) is a software development practice in which developers use a central repository to automate, test, and deploy new code. As part of their DevSecOps model, Enquizit helped the GSA deploy a CI/CD pipeline for Kubernetes deployments using a GitOps style, which allowed the teams to release much more rapidly. Enquizit also set up a CI/CD pipeline for infrastructure build and security scanning. With the software development process now automated, GSA developers can quickly and seamlessly update applications and run new code, while being confident that the system is completely secure.

## 5 Continually Creating and Improving Security Processes

Security is an iterative process and guidelines are always changing—particularly at the government level. For the first year that the GSA operated in their new cloud environment, the Enquizit team reviewed process documentation from all the GSA's departments and conducted interviews with staff to identify pain points and understand how operations were flowing within the organization. Then, using their human-centered design expertise, the Enquizit team proposed security enhancements with both the agency's and the end-users' needs in mind. This regular review process not only ensured systems stayed up to date, but also increased awareness among GSA team members about the GSA's Standard Operating Procedures—which led to greater fidelity and compliance overall.

## Agile Security in the AWS Cloud

Since deploying their cloud-based security system in 2019, the GSA has reduced its security risk overall and consistently come in under budget for cybersecurity expenses. Best yet? Thanks to the training and support from Enquizit, the GSA team feels confident in their ability to evolve their cybersecurity protocols, keeping their systems—and the systems of partner agencies—safe from malicious intruders.

To learn more about how Enquizit helps organizations and government agencies stay secure in the AWS Cloud, go to enquizit.com.