

Overcoming security and compliance challenges in the public sector

Challenges affecting the public sector

From government departments to utility providers, public sector organizations are increasingly facing security and compliance challenges. As the Cybercrime-as-a-Service market grows,¹ cybersecurity authorities continue to enact complex regulations in response. To overcome these challenges, businesses need a strong security and compliance posture—a solution afforded by automation.

Before we explain how automation can help, it is worth exploring the challenges in more detail.

Regulatory requirements. Evolving regulations in the public sector can be hard to keep up with at times. But when one mistake could lead to severe penalties and fines coupled with reputational damage, it becomes crucial for companies to maintain compliance. And yet, many still rely on siloed, manual processes that are inefficient and prone to human error.²

Confidential data. The public sector manages a lot of confidential data, including personal and financial information. This makes it a prime target for cybercriminals. To protect this data from unauthorized access, organizations must be able to detect and respond to security breaches, ensure strong encryption, and give employees the right level of access control.

Again, this is all hindered by legacy systems that no longer receive security updates and other developer support,³ along with isolated team structures and operations that slow down threat responses.

Cyberattacks. To stay ahead, organizations need future-ready measures in place to rapidly identify and respond to these attacks. This includes automatically detecting suspicious activity, using high-quality security solutions like firewalls and antivirus software, and modernizing incident response plans.

A single solution to multiple problems

Just as the same issues are affecting the entire public sector, the same solution can help alleviate them: automation.

Automation's ability to increase security by eliminating human error and freeing up time for higher-value tasks is not just desirable, but it is quickly becoming a necessity in the face of increasingly complex business models.

Without it, the costs, expertise, and resources needed to stay resilient and compliant can become overwhelming.⁴ To help businesses remain focused on security and compliant, Red Hat has a future-ready automation solution.

1 Overby, Stephanie. "Cybercrime-as-a-Service: Commoditization fuels threat surge." Mimecast, 18 April 2022.

2 Dobberowsky, Steve. "Why public sector compliance management needs an upgrade." Cornerstone, accessed April 2023.

3 Bathgate, Rory. "Defra's legacy software problem 'threatens' UK gov cyber security until 2030." IT Pro, 6 Dec. 2022.

4 "Why automation is crucial for security and compliance." VentureBeat, 22 Aug. 2022.

For the UK's Department for Work and Pensions, Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform has standardized deployment processes and automated existing workflows. This has reduced IT costs and deployment time from 10 hours to 15 minutes. Now, they can "use already known information to help citizens to get assistance quickly," as their Technical Lead Dean Clark puts it.⁶

The City and County of Denver, Colorado used the platform to achieve similar success: "During a very challenging, fast-moving situation, automation has helped create standard, repeatable processes." That's according to Sean Greer, their Director of IT Service Delivery. The result of these processes? A fivefold increase in remote work accommodation.⁷

New Zealand's Education Payroll made a 30% leap in user satisfaction by using our automation platform to save weeks of work and eliminate deployment downtime. This was achieved with repeatable playbooks that support greater collaboration and faster innovation.⁸



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Understanding Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform

Red Hat® Ansible® Automation Platform is an open source automation tool that simplifies and streamlines IT infrastructures. This includes software and system configuration, application deployment, security compliance, and the allocation of cloud resources.

Because Ansible Automation Platform empowers companies to track and automate IT operations, it is a valuable tool to manage the public sector's main issues. Regulations are simpler to follow with a clearly laid out, traceable, and repeatable IT environment. And resilience is drastically improved by modern investigation, threat detection, and incident response capabilities.⁵

The value of automation for security and compliance

Automating processes related to security and compliance can massively benefit public sector organizations. It reduces the time and costs associated with managing security and compliance and eliminates manual tasks that increase the risk of errors or noncompliance.

Automation ensures that protocols are properly followed with consistent processes that are compliant with security policies and regulations. Additionally, automation simplifies enforcing and updating security policies, helping businesses preempt cyberthreats.

Both within and outside of security and compliance, public service organizations of all sizes and disciplines have unlocked huge benefits by automating their operations.

In the face of adversity, automate

Given that regulatory complexity, data security, and cybercrime are issues that will continue to affect the public sector, organizations need a reliable security and compliance posture. At Red Hat, we believe that the best way to achieve this is with automation.

Ansible Automation Platform helps businesses streamline, manage, and ready their digital ecosystems for the future, improving resilience while saving time and money.

[Find out more](#) about our platform or [get in touch](#) with Red Hat to start your automation journey.

⁵ Red Hat checklist. "5 benefits of IT automation for the public sector," 23 April 2021.

⁶ Red Hat case study. "UK Department for Work and Pensions delivers critical assistance to citizens faster with Red Hat," 12 April 2022.

⁷ Red Hat case study. "Denver supports remote work with Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform," 29 April 2021.

⁸ Red Hat case study. "Education Payroll builds digital payroll system with Red Hat OpenShift," 15 April 2021.

About Red Hat

Red Hat helps customers standardize across environments, develop cloud-native applications, and integrate, automate, secure, and manage complex environments with [award-winning](#) support, training, and consulting services.

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