Automation Logic at the Ministry of Justice

Case Study
Case Study

INTRODUCTION
Digital transformation is at the heart of the UK Government agenda, and the Ministry of Justice is a department leading the way. Their goal is to make the justice system simpler and easier for UK citizens to engage with, build trust, and put to users at the heart of this transformation.

MOJ Digital is made up of over 150 highly-skilled digital professionals based at the Ministry of Justice HQ in London.

The team consists of specialists with expertise in a range of areas, including:

- Development
- Design
- User research
- Content delivery

Project Description
Automation Logic were engaged to help build a software delivery platform for MOJ’s digital services (new, internet-facing government services). The goal was to provide a software deployment platform which would enable the faster delivery of user value.

Once engaged, Automation Logic embedded with several MOJ service delivery teams in lead WebOps roles and began the process of building the Platform, selecting Amazon Web Service (AWS) as the cloud provider, and Salt, Sensu, ELK, Graphite, Jenkins and Docker as the core technologies.

"Automation Logic are the role model for what it takes for a DevOps oriented vendor to be successful in the public sector”.

Adhering to the Digital Service Standard, within six months the project became the first internal government Platform to pass alpha assessment. As it progressed through beta, the team set itself the goal of hosting more than 60% of MOJ digital services within the first year. Embedding in product teams and on-boarding multiple digital services the team achieved the 60% adoption goal 2 months early.

Previously hosted in a vendor-managed private cloud, migrating to the new Platform reduced hosting costs by 90%
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Building Capability
Automation Logic helped establish in-house DevOps teams, with AL consultants in lead technical or coaching positions but with civil servants in strategic roles to ensure they stayed in control of overall direction.

In parallel with the build activity, Automation Logic worked with the MOJ to build their internal DevOps capability. Automation Logic staff helped with screening candidates, conducting interviews and attending recruitment events, the result being a 1:1 ratio of civil servants to Automation Logic engineers within 9 months, and (through mentoring and pairing) the hand-off of the lead DevOps role to a civil servant.

The team is now self-sustaining with civil servants in all key strategic roles.

Tooling Improvements
Improvements in tooling including the introduction of source control (git), configuration management and automated testing (Jenkins) allowed an increase in release frequency, a reduction in release-related incidents and a move to developer self-service.

The Automation Logic delivery methodology resulted in the AL MoJ team being a 2016 finalist for Computing Magazine’s DevOps Supplier of the Year.

Automation Logic are currently working with MOJ teams to migrate approximately 80 of their legacy applications from legacy hosting environments to the new Platform.

Goals Achieved
- 70% Platform adoption rates for digital services
- Civil servants in all key strategic roles within 9 months
- Reduced hosting costs by 90%
- Reduced the cost of deployment
- Increased the frequency of releases
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About Automation Logic
Automation Logic is a leading European professional services firm providing consultancy and support to enterprises and government organisations in the field of cloud, automation and DevOps. Founded in 2010 by former Opsware consultants, Automation Logic has successfully delivered over 55 cloud and automation projects in some of the largest public and private sector organisations across Europe.

"Automation Logic are the role model for what it takes for a DevOps oriented vendor to be successful in the public sector. Automation Logic are collaborative, innovative and humble making them a great fit for our agile approach to software development. They are always able to deliver value to citizens whilst supporting the wider digital agenda of insourcing and keeping civil servants in strategic control of the services they are responsible for."

Dave Rogers: Head of Architecture and Security, MoJ Digital and Technology

For more information please visit: http://www.automationlogic.com/