

Ken Kato

Washington, DC

ken@kenkato.me

www.linkedin.com/in/devsecops-kkato

Leader and innovator with 10+ years of experience guiding transformative change across highly regulated industries that steered start-ups to exits and course-corrected large-scale organizations back to profitability. Stretch every investment for a 10x return through technical expertise coupled with clear ideas and sound judgment

Professional Experience

TechSlice: Advisory Board Member: Oct 2022 ~ Present

A Software Product Agency that works with innovators and entrepreneurs to bring their ideas into reality. Our full-suite team is here to support every step of the product by contributing expertise in software platforms and integrations, market research, UX, marketing & branding, strategy, and compliance

- Bringing my DevOps, cyber security, and public sector experience as an advisory board member to accelerate early-stage med-tech start-ups
- Provide insight and guidance to federal regulatory and compliance issues
- Cybersecurity insights from defense and intelligence experience provide a unique and valuable lens that helps start-ups hedge against potential intrusion points early on
- Experience launching and running start-ups translate to time and money savings for new start-ups spinning up

White House Presidential Innovation Fellowship

The fellowship attracts country-leading technologists to provide executive leadership to tackle the nation's toughest challenges (<https://presidentialinnovationfellows.gov/about/>) by working closely with agency leads while aligning priorities set forth by the administration

WH PIF: Entrepreneur in Residence: Oct 2019~Present

- Ensured a successful launch of covidtests.gov that met the target of \$100M+ unique users in a 3-hour window at launch
- Covidtests.gov distributed free test kits to every American that requested one with 0% downtime or cyber incidents
- Primary and co-author of policies in the Department of the Navy and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) that raised labor and product quality while lowering average contract cost by 30%
- Accelerated adoption of President Biden's Executive Order on Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity by launching a digital platform to adjudicate software bill of material for the FDA
- The FDA platform reduced the time to market for medical devices by consolidating 180 labor hours down to just 2 hours
- Advised NASA leadership strategies and technological roadmaps for future space missions
- Implementation of continuous authority to operate (ATO) strategies, playbooks, and tech stacks that streamlined ATO issuance average of 24 months to less than a week
- Devised AI-based technologies that investigate chest X-rays to confirm COVID diagnosis with 80% confidence to the accuracy

WH PIF: Director & Founder @ Black Pearl, Dept of the Navy: Oct 2019 ~ Feb 2022

- <https://www.fedscoop.com/navy-black-pearl-devsecops-platform-one/>
- Conceive, develop, and launch Black Pearl, the Navy's first cloud-based enterprise development platform and software factory in less than 30 days
- Marketed and scaled within first year to meet the demands of 500,000 users
- Listen to the needs of the users to ship new features every 2 weeks
- Year one operational cost including launch was only \$400k which is only 20% of what other programs spent on research alone

MITRE

MITRE works in the public interest to discover new possibilities, create unexpected opportunities, and lead by pioneering together for the public good to bring innovative ideas into existence

MITRE : Chief Architect, Cloud & Platform @ USAF Kessel Run: Oct 2016~Sep 2019

- <https://www.airforcemag.com/article/making-the-kessel-run/>
- Collaborated on the MVP scope for a pathfinder with Eric Schmidt, Neil deGrasse Tyson, Bill Nye the Science Guy, and the rest of the Defense Innovation Board
- The Pathfinder cost \$2M and 3 months to deliver the MVP, an air tanker refueling app that saved the USAF \$300M in fuel the first year and an average of \$450M each year after
- The MVP minimized risk to life by optimizing mid-air refueling decreased the number of total missions and the number of personnel by 50%
- The app's success led to pioneering the first-ever software factory in the government, USAF Detachment 12: Kessel Run
- Improved air operation's 72-hour target cycle time by 10% first year simultaneously spearheading new technologies in the fight against ISIS in Operation Inherent Resolve
- Slashed the average time to an ATO of 24 months down to a day by innovating, developing, and improving a tech stack that automates compliance and security artifact collection
- The ATO tech stack transformed into the first continuous ATO framework that reduces mean time to an ATO and lower costs by an average of \$1M per submission

MITRE: Sr. DevOps Architect & Sr. Cyber Security Engineer: Jan 2015~Sep 2019

- Built Mitre's first cyber range, the Cyber Proving Ground (CPG) that gave federal agencies a safe and secure training environment
- CPG's features improved deployment time from weeks by a team of 6 down to a few hours and able to replicate any cyber environment
- Decreased satellite acquisition costs by \$40M per contract by developing a software-defined ground system for NASA Goddard

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Lincoln Labs: Research Faculty, Sr. DevOps & Cyber Security Engineer: Feb 2014~Jan 2015

MIT Lincoln Laboratory researches and develops a broad array of advanced technologies to meet critical national security needs

- Transitioned source code to the OSD's Joint Mission Environment Test Capability (JMETC) doubled the footprint and increased business two-fold
- Analyze and assess malware strains from the wild in a controlled lab

- Reviewed and verified AI-driven security systems in DARPA's historic 2016 Cyber Grand Challenge that named Mayhem from All Secure the winner

Ken Kato Consulting : CEO & Founder: Jan 2012~Feb 2016

- Began a consulting practice after the last start-up exit to provide technical results and executive leadership to a range of company sizes from start-ups to Fortune 10 companies

Speaking Engagements

- DefCon 29 Biohacking Village : “Red vs Blue vs Green”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YH_kdkoJKjw
- SUSECon 2021 Edgeworld Keynote
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6krVLtuRPLw>
- DevSecOps Days Boston 2021, Invited Speaker : “DevOps in #civictech”
<https://devsecopsdaysboston.org/speakers/ken-kato>
- USAF Innovation Connect Jan 2021: “Dept. of the Navy Black Pearl and DOD Platform One” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-QOJFitb5w8>
- DynatraceGo! 2021 : “AI: Amplifying Citizen Services to Serve”
<https://video.dynatrace.com/watch/tp8TRDw9mQgJbdFUTPixRP?>
- ATARC DevOps Coffee Chat
<https://open.spotify.com/episode/1Hv6lsNQLSkvmXLDYUKPsB>
- Elastic : “At Last We Lunch” <https://events.elastic.co/elasticlunchandlearn>
- DevNation Federal 2021 : “MLops : Why It Matters & How to Do It Right”
<https://www.redhat.com/en/events/devnation-federal-2021#speakers-anchor>
- GSA TTS Impact Summit 2020
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Knnz-af8gg&list=PLd9b-GuOJ3nEtmhloQcUxdZ-tyvXEf92&index=8&t=2427s>
- #HumanIntelligence Monday Morning : “Living the Agile Life”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WReCGGIqY&t=1s>
- Redhat t+ Fedscoop Government Symposium 2020 : “Modernizing and Delivering Capability Faster to the Warfighter”
<https://mobile.twitter.com/fedscoop/status/1326237710168829954>
- CAWcast : “Lessons I’ve Learned as a Presidential Innovation Fellow”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u_zF0BhCXqs