In this week’s summarization we discuss the US Federal Government and their role with compliance. In 2016 US agencies predicted to spend nearly $80 billion for IT which would support the roles for all the executive branch agencies. No matter what agency, in order for dev complete to a push to live production would require to get an authority to operate from their approving authority. (Kim et al., 2016) It could take weeks for once listed as dev complete to be issued for live. It didn’t help that the laws and policies for compliance have numerous documents that had four thousand pages. A reform was needed to help speed up the process.

A team called the 18F in the General Services Administration took on this challenge to solve this problem. One of the things the 18F accomplished was creating a website called cloud.gov that runs on the Amazon web services GovCloud in 2016, this application was created from open source components. (Kim et al., 2016) This platform handles operational concerns delivery teams might otherwise gave to take care of” which includes logging, monitoring, alerting and even management of the service life cycle. (Kim et al., 2016)

This program takes care of a lot of the controls that government systems need to use is taken care of while using this application. A few items still remain like the controls at the application layer have to be tested and documented. (Kim et al., 2016) Running this platform reduces the amount burden sifting through documents that took weeks. The cloud.gov team also created an application to automate “the creation of system security plans.” (Kim et al., 2016) Which has very long and complex documentation and requirements.

Reference:

Kim, G., Debois, P., Willis, J. O., & Humble, J. (2016). *The DevOps Handbook: How to Create World-Class Agility, Reliability, and Security in Technology Organizations*. https://dl.acm.org/citation.cfm?id=3044729