REI Systems Leverages Code Dx Enterprise Throughout the Software Development Lifecycle

REI Systems is a provider of innovative customer service solutions to manage complex business processes, delivering lean and Agile-based application development and related operational support, primarily to federal government agencies. From building the solutions that disburse and manage more than $20 billion in grants for more than 1,700 federal programs each year, to creating the advanced analytics and data visualization platforms that have supported the last three U.S. Presidents' open data initiatives, REI's solutions are vital to making government more effective, more efficient, and more transparent. (Learn more about REI by clicking here.)

In the business of building secure solutions for the most visible government uses, such as Data.gov, REI places great emphasis on application security. Serving a wide range of clients, REI builds solutions using an equally wide range of programming languages and frameworks, depending on the specific client and project need. Since most of REI's clients are federal agencies, there is a strong focus on following security best practices and ensuring regulatory compliance to deliver secure code. Prior to using Code Dx, REI was primarily using Dynamic Application Security Testing (DAST) tools in silos for each project. These tools typically found vulnerabilities late in the development lifecycle, resulting in significant costs to rework applications to fix the identified security weaknesses, and causing substantial delays in the delivery schedule.

When REI began supporting a cabinet-level federal agency focused on security, that dynamic had to change. REI started performing static code analysis using Code Dx Enterprise, a comprehensive Application Vulnerability Manager that automatically consolidates, correlates, de-duplicates, and prioritizes results of multiple application security and code quality tools and techniques, improving security vulnerability coverage while producing fewer false positives.

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> *- Narpender Bawa, Director of Information Security, REI Systems*

REI has a 20-user license of Code Dx Enterprise, and plans to expand to use additional capabilities of the tool for other projects. In Agile development environments, Code Dx can be integrated into an automated DevOps workflow. The tool lets REI simply load source code into Code Dx Enterprise, where the software automatically selects and runs a pre-configured set of open-source Static Application Security Testing (SAST) tools and third-party vulnerability analyzers to find flaws and vulnerabilities specific to the programming languages in which the code has been written. It identifies the most-critical security vulnerabilities based on industry standards and on the potential for regulatory noncompliance. Code Dx Enterprise then rapidly triages, de-duplicates, and organizes thousands of findings into a manageable, prioritized set of vulnerabilities.

Developers never have to leave the comfort of their Integrated Development Environments (IDEs) in order to address the security vulnerabilities identified by Code Dx. They can process vulnerabilities directly from their IDEs. Code Dx will take them straight to the specific lines of code where the vulnerabilities exist, and even identify flaws and vulnerabilities nearby. This lets users continually assess application security throughout the development lifecycle.

"Code Dx has helped our teams immensely with security compliance."

"Introducing security very early in the software development lifecycle makes it possible for our teams to identify and eliminate security issues at the earliest possible stage, and throughout every step of the development process," explained Narpender Bawa, Director of Information Security at REI Systems. "Code Dx has tremendously improved the quality and delivery of secure code to our customers."

Developers are scanning earlier and fixing issues earlier in the development process, saving significant amounts of time. Each time REI's developers run a build, Code Dx automatically scans the code; thus, they no longer miss steps in the process.

"Code Dx has helped us in moving security to the left during the software development lifecycle, improving code quality, reducing the cost and the impact of security on the software delivery schedule," said Bawa. "With its support for multiple languages, platforms, and frameworks, and its ability to triage, prioritize, and provide remediation guidance, Code Dx has helped our teams immensely with security compliance."

He added "Code Dx integrates right into our Continuous Integration/Continuous Deployment and DevOps automated workflow, and has helped us ensure code quality while delivering secure code with agility and speed."

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