

WHITE PAPER: DELIVERING SECURE CLOUD SOLUTIONS VIA THE AGILE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

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Executive Summary

A large Health Agency enforces requirements for the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and all federal policies for both cloud and application development solutions. Upon the initiation of the HIPAA Administrative Simplification Optimization Program – this agency was tasked with proactively auditing covered entities' compliance with HIPAA regulations. The solution required a partner to enhance the Administrative Simplification Enforcement Testing Tool to conduct audits, facilitate the resolution of complaints, and to meet future business needs. Also, this Health Agency had eleven Salesforce application instances that operated independently. Its user account and authentication process controlled access to each application instance separately, and each required a Security Controls Assessment (SCA) and Authority to Operate (ATO). Standardization and consolidation of the applications were needed to address the Agencies risk controls for the Salesforce platform and to reduce the costs of the systems across the enterprise.

The Solution That Was Developed

Modernizing this enforcement tool required a massive cleanup effort, within one year we migrated data from a legacy system, analyzed business needs and recommended Salesforce platform. ActioNet rebuilt this tool on a modern cloud platform and, leveraged the Agile Scrum framework. The original system was hosted in a traditional 3-tier on-prem environment developed on the Java Enterprise Edition (JEE) platform and required separate hosting and reporting contracts. We converted and migrated this tool from the JEE platform to the Salesforce Cloud, extracted the legacy system's data from Java, prepared and mapping it to Salesforce data elements, and transferring it to the new system.

Transitioning to Salesforce eliminated the application's data center hosting requirement. The Salesforce cloud includes reporting needed as part of the business requirements. Salesforce provided an integrated, end-to-end lifecycle designed for high-performance agile development, deploying enhancements to end-users faster. The team effectively manages live operations while simultaneously planning new functionality to support the HIPAA Administrative Simplification Optimization Program. ActioNet also coordinates administrative and supportive services for Complaint and Audit Management.

ActioNet designed, developed, and deployed a custom Salesforce gateway, implementing a Single-sign-on (SSO) solution to address all eleven Salesforce instances. This gateway provides SSO capabilities across all Agency Salesforce applications, which provided user access within their Enterprise Portal. We successfully performed a one-time integration with the Agency Enterprise products implementing Shared Services Integration (SSI), a Cloud-to-Cloud integration between Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Salesforce, to address malware and anti-virus scanning requirements and access to other shared services.

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