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# Why CloudBees, MindPoint Group, and Red Hat? A Guide for the Public Sector

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## CloudBees and MindPoint Group, leveraging Red Hat Ansible, have partnered up to provide a DevSecOps solution for public sector customers.

As government agencies develop and release software, they often run into problem areas as they move from small teams of excellence to organization-wide practices and standards. Automating software delivery governance, scaling automation across teams, governing configuration and continuous compliance, and creating security-ready infrastructure automation are some of the top challenges public sector organizations encounter. A partnership among CloudBees, MindPoint Group, and Red Hat aims to help organizations confront these challenges with baseline automation that makes security automation part of the DevSecOps pipelines.

DevSecOps continues to evolve, bringing together equities from across organizations and improving software quality. Fierce Software, an industry-leading value-added reseller, has brought forward MindPoint Group's Ansible Counselor and Lockdown Enterprise solutions together with CloudBees Software Delivery Automation (SDA) – a CI/CD capability to bring operating system continuous maintenance into the DevSecOps solution space for the public sector.

- » The CloudBees Software Delivery Automation platform connects, automates, and orchestrates the tools and functions across development, operations, and shared services teams. By eliminating disconnections, organizations can bring software from idea to production quickly and confidently.
- » MindPoint Group's Lockdown Enterprise is a feed of supported, tested, and certified Ansible Roles that automate baseline remediation and validation on popular operating systems, clouds, and applications. The Ansible Counselor service provides continuous guidance and implementation assistance to ensure secure automation.

Starting with Red Hat's enterprise baseline, these innovators provide public sector organizations with a truly scalable approach to software delivery governance and system security governance that enables them to better and more securely deploy and manage software systems.

# How Does This Partnership Help the Public Sector With Security and Governance Challenges?

## **SOLVING THE SOFTWARE DELIVERY PROBLEM – LEADING WITH SECURITY FIRST**

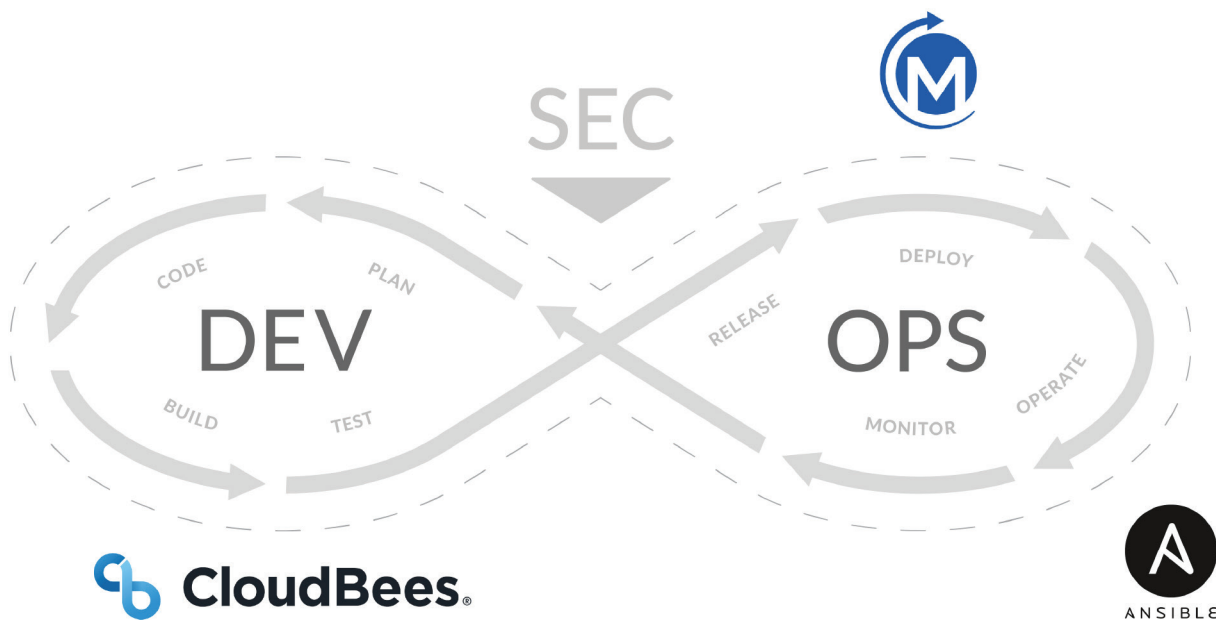
CloudBees and MindPoint Group have put in significant engineering effort and intellectual power – tested by real-world deployments – to craft technical solutions that improve upon the previous way of governing software delivery. Together, they enable a public organization to introduce automation to their infrastructure with a security-first approach. MindPoint Group's Ansible Counselor service gives organizations on-demand access to Ansible subject matter experts that help them work on Ansible automation practices as part of a security-minded strategy, tailoring it to the often complex reality of a public sector IT footprint. CloudBees' SDA was born out of the disconnection problem in software delivery: disconnected teams, tools, and processes.

The solution helps organizations glue together those disconnected components with the ultimate objective of having consistent, reliable, repeatable, well-disciplined software delivery. With continuous delivery and release orchestration, organizations can more effectively deploy software and monitor compliance with delivery best practices and standards.

### STREAMLINING DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY TEAMS

Organizational boundaries are a huge hurdle in public sector IT environments. When development teams are at odds with security teams, organizations have delayed or blocked delivery efforts. This often occurs because security teams haven't been aligned with what is being developed. A lot of wasted time and effort can occur in these instances, resulting in failed security reviews. Leveraging the CloudBees MindPoint Group partnership, organizations can streamline the work of both teams, enabling security to define policy and ensuring that development teams inherit that policy during pipeline execution and continuous configuration management. This is because MindPoint Group's Ansible Counselors are security engineers first, working closely with agency security oversight and executing security reviews. This expertise is codified in Lockdown Enterprise and supported by an on-site Ansible Counselor service.

MindPoint Group's Authority to Operate (ATO) Automation initiative is a set of pre-documented components, tools, and processes that can be applied to greatly reduce the required work to submit for and achieve an ATO within the National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Risk Management Framework (RMF). A key aspect of every ATO process is applying and maintaining the STIG or CIS baseline to infrastructure and applications. The Lockdown Enterprise offering eliminates the baseline burden. If it's deployed, it's compliant. Since no two agencies are exactly alike, MindPoint Group tailors the automation to produce ATO packages that will meet unique agency requirements.



By combining this with CloudBees' Software Delivery Automation, organizations add enterprise-wide governance during the deployment process to secure baseline management and bundle it as an approved template. Development teams can know when they select a template from the SDA catalog and follow its policies during the CI/CD process that security will accept the output at release. SDA templates are also not rigid, allowing organizations to have multiple acceptable configurations that can adapt over time, delivering governance and standardization without being restrictive. This is especially important when accounting for legacy environments. SDA takes care of gathering evidence as software delivery is occurring and makes that evidence available to auditors. This ensures proper oversight and control and provides the proof and evidence that the pipelines are, in fact, trustworthy. Technical transparency and objective policy significantly reduce the potential for miscommunication and review delays.



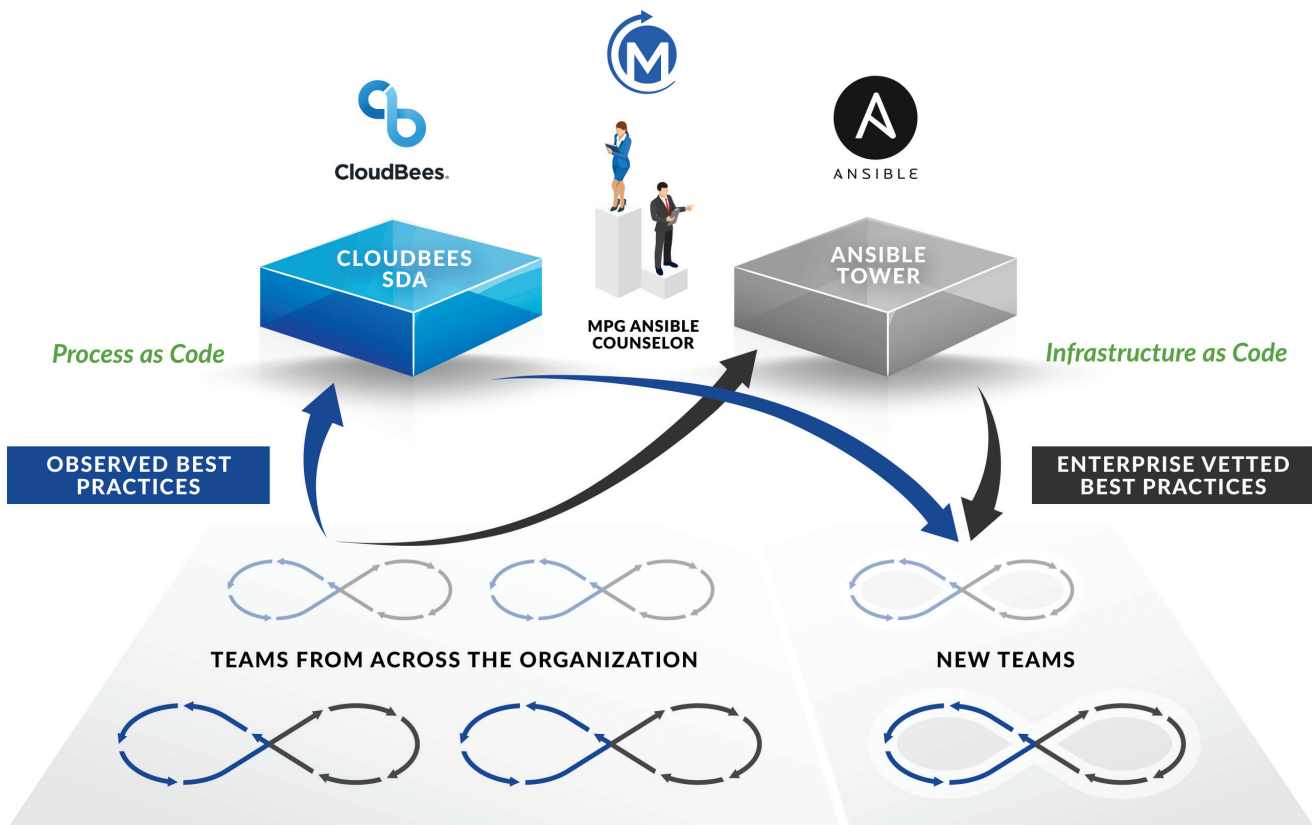
Now, development will be assured of the outcome of a security review and will save the wasted time of having to go back to conduct additional security reviews. With both teams assured that their interests are accounted for, they can commit to using a trustworthy pipeline. Overall, both teams will have technical transparency in vetted pipelines, and security teams can shape developer behavior at scale to improve the overall cyber posture of the organization. Ultimately, when security teams and development teams are on the same page, an organization reduces its cyber threat exposure. And with the security prowess of this partnership behind software delivery efforts, any public sector group can be assured they have plugged the holes in their open-source operations.

With the support and expertise from CloudBees, MindPoint Group, and Red Hat, an organization has the processes and tools in place to ensure the basics of security are baked into every information system.

### INSTITUTIONALIZING SOFTWARE DELIVERY PROCESSES ACROSS TEAMS

Public sector agencies often have different contractors responsible for different environments and systems across the organization. Add contract or contractor turnover on top of that, and the agency is constantly losing expertise and processes that were implemented to complete projects. The key to addressing this challenge is institutionalizing processes and automation efforts that govern software delivery. With CloudBees' enterprise release orchestration capability, organizations can capture their processes – specifically release processes – to ensure consistency and security at every level **through deployment**.

With MindPoint Group's Ansible Counselor – leveraging Ansible and Red Hat's Ansible Tower, a solution that scales the management of Ansible for enterprise-level IT teams – organizations can govern infrastructure automation **after deployment**. This combination allows an organization to capture and keep the expertise and processes as **code**, lifting them above the knowledge of any one contractor. This has the added benefit of alleviating many of the technical system complexities associated with contract transition.



## The Partnership in Action

The partnership among CloudBees, MindPoint Group, and Red Hat is poised to overhaul public sector enterprise IT delivery and security configuration management. It's also just getting started. With best-in-their field capabilities, the combined solution promises to deliver IT efficiencies and raise the threshold of system quality. As the leading value-added reseller for the public sector, Fierce Software has experts on hand to help your organization discover what this partnership can do for your software delivery initiatives. We are a Public Sector Partner of the Year award winner for Red Hat, CloudBees, and MindPoint Group and stand by to help your organization leverage this unique partnership. Contact Fierce Software today to learn more.



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If you think your organization could benefit from the partnership of CloudBees, MindPointGroup, and Red Hat, contact Fierce Software today. Our experts will bring this solution seamlessly to your organization, and we offer time-tested experience in the public sector. Fierce Software is the corporate sponsor of Ansible NOVA, the largest dedicated Ansible community in North America.

