

Unifying Devs and Ops with Config Management and Compliance Automation

CASE STUDY



INDUSTRY
Healthcare

INTEGRATION
AWS

USE CASES
Configuration management and compliance automation

About

Cerner's health technologies connect people and information systems at more than 27,500 contracted provider facilities worldwide dedicated to creating smarter and better care for individuals and communities.

Business Issue

Cerner was using manual processes to maintain the life cycle of systems and deliver healthcare IT solutions at scale. They needed a cohesive set of tools across all of its organizations, to empower individuals to innovate, and improve client experiences.

Business Challenge

Cerner teams were manually maintaining the life cycle of systems in a human judgment call-centric processes that didn't scale. The company needed to find a way to automate the deployment of solutions, removing human intervention by treating configuration as code, and building a framework to unify and codify delivery pipelines. Cerner also wanted to unify its development, operations, and security organizations.

Solution

Deployed Chef InSpec to ensure security and compliance of underlying platforms and Chef Infra to automate configuration management. This enabled a universal language for the company to codify delivery pipelines.

Impact

Cerner is now able to fully automate its infrastructure, compliance, and security, facilitating collaboration across a diverse set of stakeholders. This enabled them to:

- Eliminate late-night fire drills
- Put a systematic and easily-monitored process in place
- Create a method for developers, operations, security, and other stakeholders to have conversations and to engage in spirited debate around the optimal way to manage systems
- Apply lessons learned to the breadth of Cerner solutions, making the company more agile and responsive to ever-changing needs of the marketplace

“Beyond the technology, beyond the mechanics of doing configuration as code, has been a culture shift, changing how we treat systems, and how we interact with each other.”

Kyle Harper,
Lead Engineering Manager,
Cerner