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Are We Shifting Left Enough?

FAA Emerging Strategies to Identify and Resolve Cyber Vulnerabilities Early in the Development Cycle

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The V-Model Verification & Validation (V&V) Process



- Traditionally, a V-model approach is used to conduct Verification and Validation (V&V) during a product's Lifecycle Process.
- The V-model establishes an association between each phase of Development and Testing.
 - Development = Verification Phase
 - Testing = Validation Phase
- Generally, the physical infrastructure is replicated in a Development Service Verification test bed prior to going into the Operational environment
 - Each are self-contained and have to be informally or formally tested.
 - These tests are generally performed manually by an independent QA/QC program.



Challenges of the Status Quo

• Traditionally, code is subjected to security as the *last phase before release* which often creates a time crunch.

- Developers are usually working till the last minute, leaving the security team little time to ensure the code is secure.
- When vulnerabilities are exposed, either the release is *delayed* or the development team has to scramble to correct each security issue while the security team has to scramble to check the revisions.
- This creates *a great deal of expense* and slows down application release and launches
 - If iterations are released in haste, the chances of overlooking or under-prioritizing a vulnerability are significant.



To fully implement a Shift Left Approach, a change in culture is necessary



- The complexity of the NAS and the everevolving cyber threats are driving the need for security involvement earlier in the software development life cycle
- Shift Left = SecDevOps versus DevSecOps
- Objective is to introduce Cyber requirements, V&V and Test & Evaluation (T&E) activities earlier in the Development Cycle
 - Identifies and Mitigates Risk Earlier
 - Lowers long-term cybersecurity costs
 - o Assures an on-time schedule







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Evolving Mitigation Activities

The FAA is using mitigation activities to minimize risk in Development and Operational Environments

We are building segmented Operating Environments (OEs) to protect our Mission Critical (MC) and Mission Essential (ME) Systems/Services with Enterprise Cybersecurity Capabilities

Managed Enterprise Security Monitoring:

- Integrate different monitoring and detection tools
- o Automate tasks for simpler, more effective security operations
- Security Enterprise Asset Management:
 - o Centralized capability
 - Support collection of specific NAS assets for each environment
- Centralized NAS Software Security Management:
 - o Improves cyber security posture of the NAS
 - Provides centralized capability for security patch & protection updates
- Managed Enterprise Security Protections (Shared Telco):
 - o Implemented via a Network Edge Protection capability
 - Support secure NAS operations when running in a Zero-Trust environment

Boeing 787 Antennas GPS-L/R ATC/TCAS SATCOM ------A BOEING ILS Glideslope and Localizer Marker Beacon LAN/TWLU Terminal wireless local area network (LAN) unit GPS Global positioning system ELT Emergency locator transmitter /TCAS Air traffic control/traffic collision and avoidance system HF High-frequency radio TCS Terminal cellular system DME Distance measuring equipment ADF Automatic direction finder VOR VHF omni-directional ranging RA Radio altimeter CWLU Crew wireless LAN unit Source: Boeing

Like the NAS, Aircraft Systems are comprised of many supporting systems and services. In both, Segmentation is broadly used as a Defense-in-Depth Strategy



Secure by Design

- Security issues are anticipated and remediated early
 - Relationships between developers, testers, security teams, and operations staff are streamlined

Increased Delivery Speed & Reduced Cost

- Testing is one of the top reasons for release delays.
 - Shift Left cybersecurity supports faster application delivery because there is *no pause* in coding while cybersecurity teams perform their V&V and T&E reviews.
- Continuous testing means *security flaws are caught sooner*, so fixes are easier and less costly to make.
- Shift Left security *reduces the time* between releases by enabling DevOps and security to work in parallel thereby *reducing overall product cost*.









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Questions

