The Dana Foundation

Embedding Security into SDLC to Accelerate DevOps Adoption

Interview with Jim Rutt, CIO/CISO Dana Foundation

What business initiatives at Dana are driving your strategy?

Our business initiatives are grouped into three main areas: grants and grant management to fund research around the brain, neuroscience and neuroimmunology; research publishing; and educational outreach. We keep our finger on the pulse of which new technology trends will help us remain efficient operationally as we support these initiatives, while always maintaining a strong security posture. The more efficient we are, the more we can invest in new innovations and research grants.

As the cybersecurity landscape has changed in tactics and intensity, how has your organization shifted to address the latest threats?

The cybersecurity landscape is rapidly getting more complex and insidious in terms of the vectors in which the threats are being delivered. Each of our key initiatives collects or gener-

ates potentially sensitive information—research data, financial information, PII—that must be protected against growing cyber threats. Maintaining the confidentiality, integrity and availability (the CIA triad) of this data is the foundation of our cybersecurity program. It's critical that we ramp up innovation internally to make sure we have the most cutting-edge technology to fight against real and perceived threats now and in the future.

How has your organization transformed to take advantage of these new technologies?

We completed our cloud transformation from an infrastructure perspective three years ago. This transformation has allowed us to offload areas of risk to subject-matter experts via cloud computing, rather than trying to take it on ourselves, significantly increasing efficiency and streamlining our resources. On the development side however, we needed to make the move from our traditional Waterfall approach to a lean, DevOps SDLC, but were challenged with how best to do that while still maintaining our strict security posture. We

At-a-Glance

Goals

- Ensure The Dana Foundation has the most cutting-edge technology to fight threats today and in the future.

- Maintain the highest levels of confidentiality, integrity and availability of all data.

- Transition from waterfall development to lean, DevOps SDLC while still maintaining a strict security posture.

Results with ZeroNorth

- Completed 85% of move from Waterfall to DevOps methodology.

- The speed and totality of the DevOps move was fueled by security now embedded earlier in the development process.

- Security testing is simplified because it is now unified onto a platform vs. run manually by siloed functions.

- Reduced the learning curve of security technology by developers—ZeroNorth's automation and integration into the CI/CD tool set eliminates the need for developers to also be security engineers.

have now started this transition, and the major driver behind this is the maturation of rugged DevOps (DevSecOps) tools and frameworks such as ZeroNorth that will help us implement a continuous security monitoring and integration approach to development.

How does ZeroNorth align with your strategy?

The ZeroNorth continuous security platform has allowed us to complete about 85% of our transition to Agile to date. With ZeroNorth, security innovation is now aligned with the development-level innovation, baked in earlier in the process versus after the fact, saving us time, money and possible exposure. ZeroNorth is so well-integrated into CI/CD that it was a natural fit for us. The platform identifies the key security elements needed to enable fully rugged DevOps while still using the tools and industry-standard risk management frameworks such as NIST that we are comfortable with and that make sense for The Dana Foundation.

What affect has implementing ZeroNorth had on your in-house staff?

The plethora of new security tools adds to the complexity of training our in-house staff, especially software developers who may not be familiar with security principles. Each tool seems to require a different SME, and most don't talk to each other so it's not easy to correlate results. All of these

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factors exacerbate the industry-wide shortage of security professionals— we need to run lean. The ZeroNorth platform lets us slot these specialized, stove-piped tools in and directly emulate our CI/CD environment so it can be audited, monitored and measured continuously and automatically. And ZeroNorth shortens or eliminates learning curves because my team doesn't have to learn all of these tools, reducing training overhead.

What are your next steps in using ZeroNorth and advancing security posture and defenses?

We consider ZeroNorth a major strategic security partner who will help us advance into other paradigms of cloud development such as microservices and containers.

The ZeroNorth platform will help us maintain a proper security posture as we venture into areas where we don't have a lot of subject matter expertise, allowing us to leverage new technologies in support of The Dana Foundation's goals.

Find Out More

To learn more about how the ZeroNorth platform can provide continuous visibility into your security posture, or to request a demo, reach out to us at **secure@ZeroNorth.io.**

THE DANA FOUNDATION

Background

The Dana Foundation is a private philanthropic organization that supports brain research through grants, publications and educational programs. The Foundation is committed to advancing brain research and to educating the public on the brain, brain disorders and treatments. Its grants fund research in neuroscience in connection to human health and disease. The Foundation promotes dialogue between researchers and lay audiences; provides validated information about the latest advances in research through its free publications and websites; engages people worldwide through the Alliances and International Brain Awareness Week; and highlights critical information about the brain through social media.