ABOUT

Centrica plc is a British multinational energy and services company with its headquarters in Windsor, Berkshire. Its principal activity is the supply of electricity and gas to consumers in the United Kingdom and Ireland. It also provides energy solutions and trading to businesses worldwide. The largest supplier of gas to domestic customers in the United Kingdom, Centrica also owns several subsidiaries, supplying electricity and gas across the British Isles. Centrica is listed on the London Stock Exchange and is a constituent of the FTSE 250 Index.

NEED

Centrica has an extensive range of operations, serving a variety of markets, countries and customers. As a result, Centrica required a complex implementation designed to simplify the collaborative approach desired within their development infrastructure. Centrica takes an established objective approach to their market, focusing on developing market trends and opportunities for growth. As a result, Centrica sought to implement secure agile development practices to ensure the achievement of this goal.

During the consultation process, Centrica was developing various B2C applications including web-based portals, customer energy accounts and home cover. Additionally, Centrica sought to develop their B2B presence to support partnership relationships and development of energy trading platforms. With an extensive development organization: 750+ developers and an agile daily release process, Centrica desperately needed a collaborative, hybrid security approach.

CUSTOMER TESTIMONIAL

“We have over 1000 pipelines and the goal is to run security scans without slowing them down, I am happy to say that Kiuwan’s SAST solution has been the ideal choice for us.”

LEWIS BRAMMFIT
SOLUTION

Centrica chose to implement 2 solutions with Kiuwan:

1st solution: Kiuwan is used as a docker container that is injected into the pipelines. Any time that source code is sent into the pipeline, it is analyzed in the Docker container and the results are sent directly to the Kiuwan dashboard that can be easily accessed from the cloud by any approved user.

2nd solution: Centrica also benefits from a centralized solution running on a Kubernetes cluster. Scans are passed onto the cluster but initialized in the pipeline. This provides a considerable advantage for their agile development approach by removing any potential blockages from the process. Reports are centralized, so response times can be faster. The development team also implemented temporary containers to quickly run scans and then deprecate, this allows the Centrica team to avoid running all scans on the Kubernetes cluster.

IMPLEMENTATION

- To implement a quality gate within the CI pipeline, this enables a wider use of the Secure Software Development Lifecycle.
- Improvement in productivity, the tool is easy to use and cloud accessible, enabling all members of the development team to manage security and quality.
- To reduce development costs, being a minimal and affordable platform Centrica was able to save money by avoiding missed deliveries.
- Enhanced security standards, Centrica develops personalized security standards allowing them to find vulnerabilities and manager governance.
- Reduction in false positives, with Kiuwan Centrica can trust their results thanks to a very low false positivity rate.
- To generate custom reports, Centrica leverages custom reports to identify common vulnerabilities and enhance their development strategy.
RESULTS

SSDLC introduction Kiwan’s SAST and SCA solutions were added as a quality gate within Centrica’s CI pipeline. This triggered a rollout of the Secure Software Development Life Cycle (SSDLC) framework across the whole enterprise.

Increased productivity Using only one solution increased the productivity of Centrica’s development team. The developers were happy to use Kiwan to fix the problems themselves, without security dictating it to them.

Reduced costs Kiwan is a solution that can be easily deployed and also covers Centrica’s enterprise with a minimal platform and startup costs.

New security standards New, personalized security standards were developed hand-in-hand with Centrica. Kiwan was adapted to map its findings back to them. It’s not only a vulnerability finder, it’s also governance work.