

## FISMA Compliant Cloud Enables Agility & Innovation at the US Federal Government

- High profile federal project delivers innovative solutions using agile development approach
- FISMA compliant cloud-based technology enables rapid provisioning of development & test environments
- Significant cost savings achieved when compared with traditional approaches

### Background

In 2011, a high profile software project was set up to replace an existing system within a large US Federal Government agency. A team of approximately fifteen, including BAs, PM, developers and testers, was assigned to this 2 year duration project.

Back then, most software development at the agency was performed using "traditional" approaches; but the project team aspired to a better way of working, and decided to adopt a more modern, agile development approach.

### Solution

Global consultants specializing in enterprise-scale agile, Ivar Jacobson International (IJI), were called in to do a short assessment aimed at identifying and removing any potential impediments to successful agile adoption. IJI were quickly able to highlight the biggest impediment to the project: the existing procurement-led approach to provisioning development and test environments.

An agile development approach is based on evolving the desired product through short, rapid iterations with close stakeholder involvement and regular feedback, as opposed to "big up front design". This meant that the project team needed a development and test environment that could be provisioned quickly, and that also could be adapted to the changing technical needs of the solution as it evolved.

The lead-time associated with the traditional procurement-led provisioning approach, and the inflexibility of an in-house development platform, would not be supportive of adopting agile techniques, and would at best result in the team being forced back in to the old, traditional development approach; and at worst result in the team being unable to start work for several months.



IJI recommended that the team adopt a cloud-based development and test environment, and worked with the project team to evaluate several different options. The team decided on a leading public cloud-based provider, as it provided the requisite (FISMA compliant) security features for a government project, was extremely easy to configure, and represented superb value for money with its utility-based pricing model.

IJI continued to support the project team with coaching in various agile practices including test-driven development, continuous integration and automated deployment (DevOps).

### Outcome

Fast forward 18 months and the project is up and running, with a new production system running alongside, and in parallel with, the existing system. Scheduled to go live at the end of 2013, the system is now deployed onto a private cloud infrastructure that mimics the configuration of the development and test environment within the public cloud.

While the costs savings associated with adopting this new, agile, cloud-based development approach have been significant, the real benefit is the ability to innovate: the rapid feedback cycles provided by an agile approach, enabled by the cloud-based environment, have meant that the project team have not only built the new solution quickly, but they have also been able to respond to the emergent nature of the requirements, providing new, innovative, and valuable solutions to their customer.

### Lean more

To learn more about IJI agile consulting, coaching, and training solutions, visit [www.ivarjacobson.com](http://www.ivarjacobson.com) or contact [sales@ivarjacobson.com](mailto:sales@ivarjacobson.com).

Creating **winning** teams.