SICURA

IBM Federal Cloud Team Leverages Sicura to Save Over $2 Million Annually

$2.36M
Cost Savings in First Year with Sicura

85%
Increase in System Admin Efficiency

4 Hours
Labor Savings Per Server Per Year

In their mission to provide best-in-class secure IT solutions for government customers, IBM's Managed Services & Cloud Solutions group sought to increase automation with a focus on maintaining security and compliance. They used Sicura to supplement existing infrastructure management and achieve steady-state compliance for their customers.

As a result, IBM realized an 85% increase in operations efficiency and a savings of over $2 million in their first year with Sicura.

Technical Compliance Posed Complex Challenges for IBM

IBM faced three major challenges in achieving compliant configurations for customers:

Clients face complex compliance requirements

IBM federal customers are required to manage their sensitive data in accordance with a variety of compliance policies, including DISA STIG in support of NIST-800-53, CIS Benchmarks, and HIPAA. Each policy has different requirements, exceptions, and nuances that must be enforced throughout the client's system to pass audits and prevent breaches.

Trusted server management tools ignore compliance

IBM trusted Puppet to continuously monitor and configure customer servers in the cloud, but Puppet could not assess or enforce adherence to compliance policies. The IBM team needed to level up their existing suite to integrate compliance into their automated capabilities.

Manual compliance wastes time

As a result of the two challenges above, IBM Cloud system engineers and administrators were spending hours enforcing compliance manually. The IBM team knew that adding compliance profiles to their Puppet modules would take weeks or even months, costing more engineering hours or a costly professional services engagement.

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Sicura offered an out-of-the-box solution for continuous compliance

IBM's team evaluated other specialized compliance tools and no other compared to the level of enforcement and remediation that Sicura offered IBM's cloud environments.

Upon deployment, Sicura assesses the state of each server, measures that state against the relevant compliance policies, and offers immediate remediation steps to get those servers into compliance. The continuous configuration capabilities of Puppet allow for near-constant compliance enforcement and insight into each server's status through the Sicura Console. Expert engineers from Sicura worked side-by-side with the IBM team to deploy the platform and offer training and on-call support for any issues, and within three weeks, Sicura enabled IBM to get their client servers to a compliant baseline.

"We chose Sicura to provide multi-tenant compliance enforcement for our federal customers. Deploying Sicura was an easy decision.

The added expertise and ease of support throughout this project is what makes us continue to invest in Sicura within our infrastructure."

Kris Franklin

Technical Delivery Manager, Infrastructure Automation IBM Managed Services & Cloud Solutions

Sicura drove dramatic improvements in efficiency and cost savings in the first year

Sicura's continuous assessment, automated remediations, and continuous reporting via the Console allows IBM system administrators to manage client servers more efficiently. A single system administrator can now manage 450 servers at a time compared to only 75 servers previously, allowing 1 administrator to perform the work of 6. This led to an annual reduction of 4 hours per server of labor spent on compliance.

Between the labor cost savings, improved efficiency, and synergies achieved through Sicura's all-in-one solution, IBM estimated they saved $2.36 million in their first year with Sicura, deployed on only 1000 nodes. With Sicura, IBM Federal Cloud is able to offer their customers an industry-leading compliance solution, delivering value while saving money.

About Sicura

About Sicura
Automated Security Remediation Across the OS and Up the Stack
Sicura is a security and compliance platform that enforces and remediates technical security controls, bridges the gap between security and engineering teams, and puts a stop to manual fixes of misconfigurations.