



Success Story

Fortune 100 Technology Leader Achieves Multi-Million Dollar Cost Savings with Container Security Transformation



Executive Summary

A Fortune 100 Technology leader company revolutionized its container security strategy with CleanStart's near zero-CVE, distroless images. By replacing legacy patch-and-remediate workflows, the organization reduced its attack surface by 95%, cut vulnerability response times from weeks to 3 days, and achieved over \$2 million in annual cost savings. CleanStart's automated compliance features (FIPS 140-3, SLSA Level 4, RBI/DORA readiness) also slashed audit preparation time by 60%, giving teams the agility to focus on innovation - not maintenance.

Customer Profile



Financial
Services



San Francisco,
USA



Fortune
100

Environment: 150+ unique container images, 1000+ image versions

Previous Challenge: High operational costs and lengthy security maintenance cycles

Business Challenges

Before implementing CleanStart, the organization faced several critical challenges:

● Resource-Intensive Operations

- Required 10-15 dedicated DevSecOps engineers
- Annual overhead of \$1.5-2.0 million in security maintenance
- Significant time investment in image hardening and updates

● Security Response Delays

- Weeks-long vulnerability remediation cycles
- Growing backlog of security patches
- Risk exposure during remediation periods

● Compliance Complexity

- Difficulty meeting FIPS compliance requirements
- Complex compliance validation processes
- Resource-intensive audit preparations

● **Cost Inefficiency**

- High vendor costs for similar services
- Excessive resource allocation
- Redundant security processes

Solution Implementation

CleanStart provided a comprehensive solution:

● **Enterprise-Scale Deployment**

- Implementation of 150 unique hardened images
- Support for 1000+ image versions
- Seamless integration with existing workflows

● **Automated Security Management**

- Continuous vulnerability monitoring
- Automated patch management
- Proactive security updates

● **Compliance Automation**

- Pre-configured FIPS compliance
- Automated compliance reporting
- Streamlined audit processes

Quantifiable Results

1. Cost Optimization

① **Direct Savings:**

\$1.5–2.0 million annual reduction in DevSecOps resources

② **Vendor Consolidation:**

60% cost reduction compared to previous security

③ **Resource Reallocation:**

Freed engineering teams to focus on product innovation

2. Operational Efficiency

- ① **Vulnerability Response:**
Reduced from weeks to 3 days
- ② **Deployment Speed:**
70% faster image deployment
- ③ **Resource Utilization:**
85% reduction in security maintenance effort
- ④ **3–5x faster CI/CD pipelines**
with CleanStart’s distroless lightweight images

3. Compliance Enhancement

- ① Achieved **FIPS 140-3** and **SLSA Level 4** compliance out of the box
- ② Reduced audit preparation effort by **60%** with automated SBOM and cryptographic provenance
- ③ Minimized breach exposure—avoiding potential multi-million-dollar incidents

4. Financial Impact

- ① **Total Annual Savings:** Over \$2 million
- ② **ROI Timeline:** Achieved positive ROI within 6 months
- ③ **Cost Comparison:** 2.5x more cost-effective than previous solution



Customer Quote

"CleanStart has transformed our container security operations. We've not only achieved significant cost savings but also dramatically improved our security posture and compliance capabilities. The speed at which we can now deploy secure containers has given us a competitive advantage in our market."

- Chief Information Security Officer

Key Success Factors

1. Comprehensive Coverage

- 1 Full support for diverse image requirements
- 2 Enterprise-scale capabilities
- 3 Integrated security and compliance

2. Rapid Implementation

- 1 Minimal disruption to existing operations
- 2 Quick adoption by development teams
- 3 Immediate security benefits

3. Measurable Impact

- 1 Clear cost savings
- 2 Quantifiable efficiency improvements
- 3 Demonstrable compliance achievements

Looking Forward

The organization continues to expand its use of CleanStart:

- Planning expansion to additional container workloads
- Exploring advanced compliance automations
- Implementing additional security optimizations

Lessons Learned

● Strategic Value

- Security automation drives significant cost savings
- Integrated compliance reduces operational complexity
- Proactive security measures improve business agility

● Automated Security Management

- Clear migration planning ensures smooth transition
- Strong vendor support accelerates adoption
- Comprehensive solution reduces total cost of ownership

About CleanStart

CleanStart provides enterprise-grade container security through pre-hardened images, continuous security updates, and automated compliance management. Our solution helps organizations reduce costs, accelerate deployments, and ensure continuous compliance in their container environments.

This case study is based on actual customer results. Some details have been modified to protect customer confidentiality.