Enabling Scalable Cyber Risk Management & Accelerating Product Innovation

at Digital Technologies Group - a life sciences advisory company



Using low-code to deliver CAST - a game-changing industrial cybersecurity solution for complex, regulated manufacturing environments

INDUSTRY

Life Sciences

CLIENT

Digital Technologies Group

TECHNOLOGY

Mendix

CHALLENGES

- Traditional development posed high cost and long lead times
- Shifting regulatory demands required an adaptable solution
- Pressing need to respond to emerging cybersecurity threats
- Limited internal development capacity and low-code expertise

BENEFITS & RESULTS

- Accelerated delivery - 39 days
- 7x faster development lifecycle
- Full IP ownership of the commercial software product
- 67% cost reduction compared to alternative estimates
- In-house capability developed
- Built in just 15% of the time required by traditional approaches

The Client

Digital Technologies Group (DTG) is a life sciences advisory company specialising in digital transformation. By helping organisations embrace smarter manufacturing through the adoption of Industry 4.0 technologies, DTG provides strategic technology and business advice that enables life science manufacturers to realise the benefits of digitalisation across manufacturing and supply. The experienced DTG team has spent decades advising some of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies, including AstraZeneca, GSK, and Merck.

The Challenge

Operating in high-value, highly regulated manufacturing environments, DTG understands the unique pressures their clients face — particularly when it comes to cybersecurity. In manufacturing, cyberattacks can disrupt critical production lines, compromise sensitive intellectual property, and trigger costly regulatory non-compliance. With complex supply chains, multiple third-party partners, and legacy OT systems not originally designed with security in mind, vulnerabilities are numerous and often difficult to detect. Yet in many organisations, cyber risk remains underestimated, poorly quantified, and rarely communicated effectively to business stakeholders. Operational Technology (OT) teams frequently struggle to track, prioritise, and manage risk-reduction plans throughout their full lifecycle. This leaves gaps that can be exploited — with the potential to halt production, delay life-saving medicines, and damage brand reputation.

DTG set out to address these issues by developing a solution that enhances manufacturers' visibility and control over cyber risks and redefine what best-in-class cyber risk management looks like.

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Meghan Harvie, Digital Services Manager, Digital Technologies Group

The Solution

With a clear vision for their new solution—later named CAST—DTG set out to find a platform that could support a fully bespoke build while meeting their clients’ high expectations for flexibility, performance, and security. After an extensive market evaluation, DTG chose the Mendix enterprise low-code platform, confident it could deliver on every requirement and bring their vision to life. DTG joined the Mendix Independent Software Vendor (ISV) Program, which empowers software companies—from startups to established enterprises—to build and market commercial solutions faster, leveraging Mendix’s platform to accelerate their time-to-revenue and create innovative, tailored, and easily customisable solutions.

Initially considering in-house development, DTG also explored the Mendix partner network for specialist expertise. This search led them to AuraQ, where it quickly became clear that outsourcing the initial build was the most effective route. Partnering with AuraQ ensured CAST would be expertly architected, built to scale, and—most importantly—developed at speed. This fast-track delivery guaranteed a rapid time to market, positioning DTG for an accelerated launch and a strong competitive advantage from day one.



Delivered in just 39 days, CAST has been designed specifically to give business leaders the tools to measure and manage cybersecurity risk across complex, multi-vendor industrial environments. It enables visibility and risk control across entire networks of sites.

At its core, CAST delivers a continuous, lifecycle approach to industrial cybersecurity—built around five key pillars: Inventory, Assessment, Visualisation, Action Planning, and Management. It begins with establishing a comprehensive Inventory, giving manufacturers full visibility of their industrial equipment, connections, and networks. Every asset can be mapped to sites, buildings, and products, creating a complete and structured view of the operational technology landscape.

From there, users can Assess their environments against recognised industry standards, to evaluate compliance and identify areas for improvement. CAST then enables users to Visualise their results through intuitive dashboards. Risk scores and trends can be compared across sites, helping teams quickly recognise where any gaps exist and highlight priority areas for mitigation. Turning insight into measurable outcomes, the Action phase allows organisations to mitigate risks by building and completing targeted action plans. Ownership can be assigned, progress tracked in real time, and priorities aligned to the organisation’s chosen standards. Finally, CAST empowers teams to Manage their cybersecurity posture with ongoing visibility and accountability. New vulnerabilities can be logged as they arise, future assessments scheduled, and progress monitored to ensure that defences are continually strengthened.

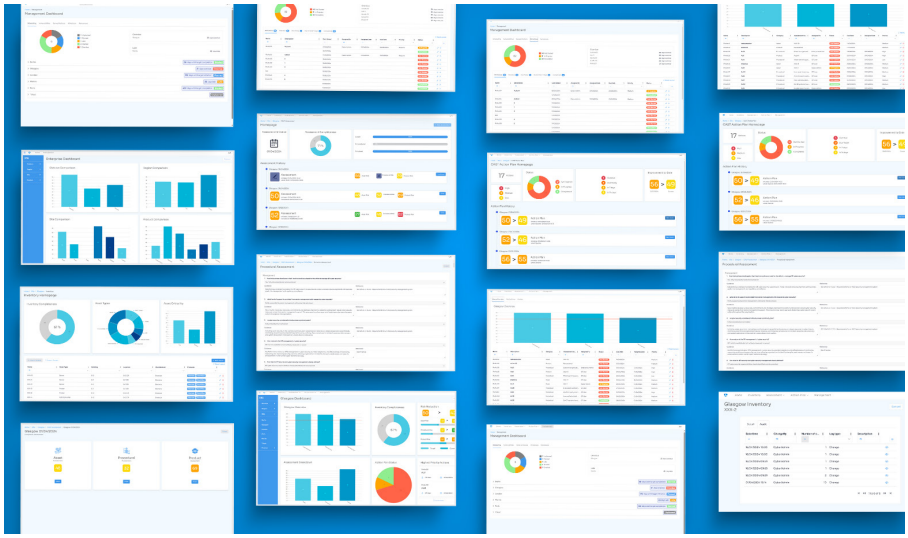
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Meghan Harvie,Digital Services Manager, Digital Technologies Group

The Outcome

DTG now delivers an industry-leading industrial cyber risk management hub that is transforming how life science manufacturers protect their operations. CAST's business-focused design makes it simple to translate complex cyber risks into clear, actionable intelligence for stakeholders—ensuring that risks are not only understood but actively managed. By integrating seamlessly with existing data and processes, CAST empowers manufacturers to enhance operational efficiency, strengthen regulatory compliance, and bolster cyber resilience. Its modular, extensible architecture future-proofs the solution, enabling DTG to quickly adapt to emerging threats, incorporate new industry standards, and expand functionality as client needs evolve.

Working with an experienced Mendix delivery partner meant CAST was developed quickly and effectively. "From the outset, AuraQ felt like an extension of our own team. Their technical expertise, speed, and deep understanding of the Mendix platform meant we could move from concept to a fully scalable solution within weeks. They brought our vision for CAST to life faster and more effectively than we imagined" commented Meghan Harvie, Digital Services Manager at DTG.



By operating a blended model—where AuraQ led development while demonstrating best practices in security and governance alongside DTG—the team was able to deliver a solution with deep Mendix functionality, informed by AuraQ's extensive project experience. This approach also enabled DTG to build internal technical capability, allowing their teams to quickly begin iterating on the solution, accelerating enhancements based on user feedback. "Working with AuraQ helped us accelerate development without ever compromising on quality or security. Their collaborative approach ensured CAST was built to scale from day one, and their guidance has enabled us to build strong in-house Mendix capability. It's been a true partnership that's set us up for long-term success" Harvie added.

Since the initial release, DTG has transitioned to an expert services model with AuraQ, developing in-house while returning to AuraQ for additional capacity and specialist support. With CAST, DTG has set a new benchmark for industrial cybersecurity in high-value, highly regulated environments—delivering visibility, control, and measurable risk reduction at scale.

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