Appian | U.S. AIR FORCE

United States Air Force Contract Management Digital Transformation

The United States Air Force deployed a digital solution for its Contracting-Information Technology (CON-IT) program on the Appian low-code platform. The solution standardizes acquisition contract writing across the Air Force, drives efficiency for the acquisition and contracting communities, reduces costs, and enables fast functional enhancements and statutory changes. The service designed, developed, and deployed the CON-IT cloud application in fewer than nine months.

AIR FORCE'S AUDACIOUS GOAL

The United States Air Force's senior leadership has set a goal of shaving a collective 100 years from the schedules in the service's acquisition programs. The Air Force has achieved significant early success, especially in low-code software development. Some application development projects that formerly took years are now deployed in weeks or months.

The Air Force's CON-IT program is a model for successful digital transformation in the Department of Defense (DoD). CON-IT is the Air Force's initiative to migrate all of its contracting offices to a single contract management system. The application will eventually replace seven legacy contract writing systems.

APPIAN SOLUTION

The United States Air Force deployed a digital solution for its CON-IT program on the Appian low-code platform. The Air Force's primary methods and technologies include Agile, rapid prototyping, platform as a service (PaaS), software-as-a-service (SaaS), and low-code software. The Appian solution standardizes acquisition contract writing across the Air Force, drives efficiency for the acquisition and contracting communities, reduces costs, and provides a platform to make functionality enhancements and statutory changes fast. The system is in production with Authority to Operate (ATO) certification.

The CON-IT solution expanded on a baseline from acquisition systems developed by the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) on Appian. DISA's operationally proven contract writing solutions automate the processes involved in offering, issuing, and managing a DoD contract. Appian's powerful business process management technology, in combination with its low-code development platform, enabled the Air Force to easily configure and develop legacy acquisition systems into CON-IT, helping the Air Force meet specific requirements for the contracting community.

The Appian cloud solution is hosted in an Impact Level 4 (IL4) data center, which covers controlled unclassified information (CUI) that under law or policy requires protection from unauthorized disclosure and other mission-critical data. Appian's ability to deliver at IL4 provides a distinct advantage to DoD Agencies. The Appian cloud has a comprehensive security and compliance program, including FedRAMP 2.0, that meets more industry standards than other application Platform-as-a-Service (aPaaS) vendors.

Air Force Digital Transformation Results

- Nine months from CON-IT contract award to system deployment

- 14,000 contracts awarded through CON-IT in first 10 months

- 4,000 application users

- 423 contracts awarded in one week through CON-IT

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"The Air Force is committed to modernizing our legacy business systems in a cost-effective manner, adopting commercial best practices like Agile software techniques, partnering with non-traditional entities like the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Enterprise Application Services, and implementing extensible, scalable cloud technologies like the business process management capabilities provided by industry partners like Appian."

RICHARD T. ALDRIDGE
PROGRAM EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE SYSTEMS AND MEMBER OF THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE, U.S. AIR FORCE

Appian provides a low-code platform that accelerates the development of mission-critical applications. Many of the world's largest corporations and government and defense organizations use Appian applications to improve manpower and personnel readiness, logistics management, and acquisition management.

For more information, visit: Appian DoD Acquisition Management Solutions