Glympse is making geo-location sharing easy

With GitLab, Glympse is able to improve security scanning and deploy time

Glympse

industry
Technology

location
Seattle, Washington

employees
30 employees

overview
Glympse is a fast, free and simple way to share your real-time location and estimated arrival time using GPS tracking. The tracking is temporary and secure – and Glympse recipients don't need to download an app to see the shared location.

challenge
A complex developer tech stack with over 20 distinct tools that was hard to maintain and manage. Teams spent several hours a week keeping tools running rather than shipping innovation to their app.

solution
Ultimate

benefits
→ Teams over 2x more efficient. Teams using GitLab completed over 50 days of work (21 workdays)

→ Developers can deploy to production without fear of disparate systems and worry over versioning

→ Significantly streamlined code-review-test-deploy process through pipelines

→ Reduced deployment fatigue enabling code to be shipped more frequently

<30 mins	**5 teams**	**~20 tools**
deploys from 4 hours	using GitLab 100%	consolidated into GitLab

the customer → **Tracking the last mile of delivery**

Watching food delivery or seeing when a repair person will arrive is powered by real-time location tracking. But once the food is delivered or the service is complete, you want your location forgotten. Glympse Inc. technology provides end-users with a temporary real-time location tracking platform to share their location. Glympse works with retailers and home service providers around the globe to provide real-time location sharing in their last-mile offerings.

the challenge → Overcoming a disparate toolchain

At the end of 2017, Glympse was faced with the challenges associated with disparate processes. Code management and reviews were performed in

> "We had something like 20 odd different tools to kind of wrap around the system that we already had. But luckily, our leadership understood the importance of simplifying our processes and once we got GitLab in, we were off to the races."

Cillian Dwyer
Site Reliability Engineer, Glympse

different tools than pipelines were run in. At that time, pipelines consisted of disjointed Jenkins jobs. They tried Shippable, which improved the process a bit, but they still weren't able to connect merge requests to production.

the solution → GitLab Gold is making the audit process easier

Glympse is in the process of earning a SOC 2 Type II audit and GitLab is vital to achieving the certification. Because Glympse is using Gold they can leverage built-in language agnostic CI pipelines. This allowed them to quickly respond to auditor's feedback on the compliances of over 50 repositories and build a complete security package for integrating code changes into their environment.

One of the senior auditors commented in passing that having the code quality, the SAST and container scanning and the pipeline, all automated in GitLab is almost better than a manual review. "My response was, 'Well, we're going to keep the manual review, that's part of our process' but it's cool that he was almost okay with, not needing another developer for review. The security jobs in place are catching vulnerabilities from migrating to production through the product" explained Zaq? Wiedmann, lead software engineer.

Wiedmann said the auditor also mentioned that Glympse had remediated security issues faster than any other company that he had worked with before in his 20-year career. Within one sprint, just 2 weeks, Glympse was able to implement security jobs across all of their repositories using GitLab's CI templates and their pre-existing Docker-based deployment scripts.

the results → Improving deployment speed by 8x

The team fully integrated GitLab into their environment in January 2019 over the course of a single month. GitLab allowed the teams to suggest a merge request, run unit tests on it, then automatically build a new Docker image which is deployed to the sandbox environment. GitLab triggers tests in the sandbox and production deploys which are all managed on auto-scaling GitLab runners.

"The managers are excited (about GitLab) because it helps reduce the amount of time we spend on things that we don't need to be spending time on. Focusing on the important stuff basically, get back to actually engineering and not focusing on building weird pipelines with Jenkins and Shippable and GitHub and trying to hook everything together in crazy scripts and stuff"— Cillian Dwyer, site reliability engineer.

Glympse wired their GitLab pipelines to AWS and deploy directly into their VPCs across the world. Thanks to deploy environments Glympse is able to track and version across production and staging environments.

Glympse is also using all of the GitLab security jobs including SAST and DAST for static and dynamic applications security testing. Additionally, the company has container scanning, code quality, and license compliance jobs running. Jobs are managed within templates and imported by all production services.

"GitLab has had a positive effect on our culture. Everyone feels better about shipping code and deployments. There is more confidence in the org and deployment is a non-issue," — Zaq? Wiedmann, lead software engineer.

> "Development can move much faster when engineers can stay on one page and click buttons to release auditable changes to production and have easy rollbacks; everything
> is much more streamlined"

Zaq? Wiedmann
Lead Software Engineer