

Red Hat Consulting: Application Platform Foundations

Engagement overview

Build the software factory, onboard the application team, and unify the developer experience. Replace broken DIY tooling with a security-focused, supported software factory on Red Hat OpenShift with Red Hat Consulting.

“Until recently, deployment used to take around three hours, so this 98.89% reduction is dramatic. The shorter deployment time not only improves the customer experience but also helps prevent human error and potential failures.”

Ippei Kato

Core Staff, Communication Platform Department, Advanced Platform Development Division, KDDI Corp

[Learn how](#)¹ KDDI improved cost efficiency by 50%, reduced deployment time by 98.9% and shortened their development period by 20%.

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Bridging the gap between platform investment and a working software factory

Many organizations have successfully established a robust cloud-native foundation with Red Hat® OpenShift®. Now they are finding that their primary challenge has shifted from creating the platform to optimizing the experience of building on it. Without a standardized approach, the potential for faster time to market is often squandered as organizations struggle with DIY workflows and growing technical debt.

Even when the underlying technology is sound, the developer experience often remains fragmented. This forces teams to navigate ad-hoc processes that drain productivity and stall the inner loop of creation. To recover lost developer time and maximize platform investments, organizations must turn their investment into a standardized software factory.

A lack of standardization creates barriers that extend beyond the deployment pipeline. Tool sprawl and disconnected workflows make it difficult to integrate AI effectively, leading to inconsistent developer environments and missed innovation. Furthermore, a fragmented foundation leaves the software supply chain vulnerable and increases security risks.

The Red Hat Consulting: Application Platform Foundation engagement addresses these hurdles, eliminating tool sprawl and reducing technical debt to help organizations realize the full value of their IT investments. This engagement will help organizations automate the path to production so they can focus on delivering high-value code rather than managing complex, disparate tools.

Application Platform Foundation

To move from good to great, organizations work with Red Hat Consulting to evolve their fragmented do-it-yourself approach into a standardized, scalable software factory with the Application Platform Foundations engagement. This process recovers valuable time lost to inefficiency by creating a security-focused, automated path to production. The Application Platform Foundations engagement helps operations and development teams work together to speed up software delivery while maintaining stability and security. The engagement is delivered through 3 core pillars:

¹ Red Hat case study. [“KDDI boosts productivity with container technology,”](#) Oct. 31, 2025.

[Read how](#)² Brightly partnered with Red Hat Consulting to replace fragmented legacy systems with a standardized software factory. By using Red Hat OpenShift Service on AWS, Brightly established a platform team that decreased application onboarding time, improved system uptime, and brought new products to market faster.

“Red Hat brought in a team of people that partnered with our developers and architects. They joined the team and helped them visualize the path to our future platform.”

Kent Norton
CTO of Brightly

- ▶ **Establish a strategy and foundation:** Move beyond fragmented software development lifecycle processes and home-built tooling by aligning business objectives with a tailored developer experience strategy. Red Hat experts conduct a formal Developer Experience Assessment and software development lifecycle (SDLC) gap analysis in order to identify specific friction points and map an organization’s value stream. This discovery process provides the strategic blueprint required to transition the existing environment into a standardized platform that balances operational guidelines with developer productivity.
- ▶ **Unify the developer experience and build the software factory:** Translate the strategy into a reality by implementing the technical guardrails and automation required for a modern platform. Establish a GitOps control plane, architect secure continuous integration and continuous delivery (CI/CD) patterns, and standardize release engineering to ensure a consistent, repeatable delivery process.
- ▶ **Onboard and scale teams:** Initial application teams will create migration playbooks, workload archetypes, and repeatable golden paths that help future teams containerize and deploy applications with self-service ease.

This engagement can be fully customized based on the findings from the initial assessment. Week-to-week, our experts will work with organizations to address the developer experience and accelerate modernization. Table 1 is an example of what an Application Platform Foundations engagement could look like.

Table 1. Example of an Application Platform Foundations schedule

Week	Phase	Sample activities
1-2	Assessment and roadmap	Week 1: Discovery: goals, technical constraints, and friction points
		Week 2: Value stream mapping, roadmap delivery and design
3-6	Unify the developer experience and software factory buildout	Week 3: GitOps control plane and CI/CD architecture
		Week 4: Establish declarative secrets management and build secure, reusable deployment patterns
		Week 5: Build initial container definitions that transform traditional applications into cloud-native assets
		Week 6: Certify base images with integrated monitoring and health checks
7-12	Team and application onboarding	Weeks 7-8: Application archotyping and development of repeatable migration playbooks
		Weeks 9-10: Golden path validation
		Weeks 11-12: Developer self-service provisioning

² Red Hat case study. [“Brightly innovates with Red Hat OpenShift Service on AWS.”](#) Jan. 13, 2023.

Limited-time offer

The cost of a Developer Experience Assessment is applied as a credit toward qualifying Red Hat OpenShift subscriptions. Contact your business account representative to unlock these savings.

A closer look at the Application Platform Foundations framework

Developer Experience Assessment

The Application Platform Foundations journey begins with a strategic [Developer Experience Assessment](#). This discovery phase moves beyond anecdotal feedback to provide a data-driven blueprint for a software factory, focusing on:

- ▶ **Discovery and gap analysis:** Through classroom-style workshops, Red Hat Consulting will analyze an organization's current SDLC maturity, knowledge gaps, and team collaboration to identify exactly where friction exists between IT operations and development.
- ▶ **Value stream mapping:** Map existing workflows to uncover hidden bottlenecks. By value-slicing work based on business impact, Red Hat Consulting will help prioritize the automation and tools that will deliver the fastest return on investment (ROI) to developers.
- ▶ **Strategic roadmap and high-level design (HLD):** The assessment concludes with an HLD and a phased transformation roadmap. This will outline the technical architecture, timing, and execution plan needed to evolve a platform into a high-velocity ecosystem.

Once the Developer Experience Assessment is complete, Red Hat Consulting translates those findings into an execution plan. This phase focuses on creating a security-focused, automated delivery lifecycle (the *outer loop*) and then optimizing the developer's local environment (the *inner loop*) to use it.

Build the software factory (outer loop)

Red Hat Consulting helps organizations establish a reliable, security-focused, and automated path to production with the foundational software factory. By automating security and infrastructure policies directly into the delivery process, we remove the burden of manual environment management from the developer's workflow. To achieve this, the Application Platform Foundations engagement focuses on:

- ▶ **GitOps and policy-driven orchestration:** Implement a GitOps approach to manage application configurations and automated promotion pipeline deployments using Infrastructure as Code (IaC). This approach leads to a delivery process that is repeatable, auditable, and consistent across all stages.
- ▶ **Standardized CI/CD pipelines:** Use Red Hat OpenShift Pipelines to standardize build and test phases. This provides teams with preconfigured, language-specific pipelines that allow for a unified and high-quality delivery process.
- ▶ **Release engineering and security validation:** Integrate secrets orchestration, automate security policy enforcement, and certify base images with integrated monitoring to get the factory ready for production.

Red Hat Consulting partnered with a major healthcare organization to modernize their developer experience. Using workflow templates from Red Hat Developer Hub reduced complexity and cut developer onboarding times by 43%. [Read the case study checklist](#)³ to learn how your organization can apply these same strategies.

Unify the developer experience (inner loop)

After establishing the foundational software factory, Red Hat experts will address specific bottlenecks and help reduce cognitive load for developers. To streamline the daily coding experience, this phase of the Application Platform Foundations engagement focuses on 3 areas of developer productivity:

- ▶ **Inner-loop optimization:** Deploy Red Hat OpenShift Dev Spaces to provide consistent, containerized workspaces. This provides developers access to a preconfigured workspace that eliminates manual setup and provides the necessary connectivity for integrating AI-assisted development tools.
- ▶ **Self-service resource access:** Simplify manual processes with automated workflows for on-demand application resources. Developers can provision the services they need within established organizational guardrails.
- ▶ **Reduced cognitive load:** Establish a curated set of validated tools and runtime images. Developers have access to a prevetted toolkit, so they can focus on application logic rather than navigating delivery complexity or the burden of DIY tool maintenance. Learn how to use a curated set of validated tools and runtime images.

Onboard and scale teams via golden paths

In order to prove the platform's value, Red Hat will partner with the initial project teams to verify the software factory from end to end. This verification creates a blueprint that subsequent teams can use to immediately begin development and deployment. To transition from a technical build to a scalable operational model, our experts will focus on:

- ▶ **Workload archotyping and migration playbooks:** Categorize application types and develop repeatable migration playbooks to codify containerization and promotion paths. This development provides a standardized manual for migrating diverse workloads with predictable, repeatable results.
- ▶ **Golden path validation and onboarding:** Move a real-world application through the new software factory to verify the migration playbooks in a real-world scenario and define the golden path for future applications of the same archetype.
- ▶ **Developer self-service and sustainability:** Operationalize the platform by launching a Community of Practice alongside self-service provisioning. Red Hat Consulting will establish the internal documentation, sample code repositories, and knowledge sharing forums needed to independently provision resources and evolve the software factory without external support.

³ Red Hat case study. ["Modernizing healthcare IT with Red Hat,"](#) March 12, 2025.

Build long-term operational self-sufficiency

While the Application Platform Foundations engagement establishes a technical and organizational foundation, [Red Hat Training and Certification](#) and [Red Hat Technical Account Management](#) are available to complement your journey and ensure long-term success. Red Hat experts can recommend a tailored curriculum based on the findings in the Developer Experience Assessment. This role-based learning allows platform engineers to focus on building skills to manage a production-grade software factory, while developers can upskill in cloud-native development. Through self-paced learning or instructor-led courses, Red Hat Training and Certification helps organizations remain self-sufficient, even after the Application Platform Foundations engagement is complete.

Red Hat Technical Account Managers (TAMs) can also be paired with your organization to act as strategic collaborators beyond the engagement. By providing a single point of contact for proactive lifecycle planning and critical issue resolution, TAMs help protect your IT investment and establish your software factory as a stable environment for continuous innovation.

Ready to unlock developer velocity?

[Speak to an expert from Red Hat Consulting](#) to discuss how the Application Platform Foundation engagement can help unify developer productivity and build your software factory.



About Red Hat

Red Hat is the world's leading provider of enterprise open source software solutions, using a community-powered approach to deliver reliable and high-performing Linux, hybrid cloud, container, and Kubernetes technologies. Red Hat helps customers develop cloud-native applications, integrate existing and new IT applications, and automate and manage complex environments. [A trusted adviser to the Fortune 500](#), Red Hat provides [award-winning](#) support, training, and consulting services that bring the benefits of open innovation to any industry. Red Hat is a connective hub in a global network of enterprises, partners, and communities, helping organizations grow, transform, and prepare for the digital future.

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