

Slovenian National Police Force modernizes application delivery with Red Hat



To improve application delivery, infrastructure complexity, and team communication, the Slovenian National Police Force sought to migrate from its legacy mainframe IT environment to enterprise open source middleware technology. Using Red Hat JBoss Enterprise Application Platform, Red Hat AMQ, and Red Hat Smart Management, the police force created a microservices-based architecture to support faster, more collaborative development and delivery. Together with new best practices and standards, this application environment helps the police force launch new, critical applications in weeks.

Software

Red Hat® JBoss® Enterprise Application Platform

Red Hat AMQ

Red Hat Satellite
(now Red Hat Smart Management)

Existing Red Hat software

Red Hat Virtualization

Partner

Agenda Open Systems



Public sector

8,500 employees

Benefits

- Improved application delivery time with microservices-based architecture and collaborative approach
- Simplified system management with integrated solution
- Improved recruitment of skilled talent looking to work with innovative open source technology

“The border police application was the first time we saw how fast we could develop on Red Hat technology. We built the application from start to finish in less than three weeks.”

Jernej Razboršek

Senior Police Inspector,
Republic of Slovenia Ministry of the Interior, Police,
General Police Directorate, IT and Telecommunications Office,
ICT Infrastructure Division, Server Systems Section



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Simplifying infrastructure management for better team integration and responsiveness

The Slovenian National Police Force is the country's main law enforcement agency, operating at state, regional, and local levels.

Keeping teams and departments connected is crucial to timely responses to potential safety threats or other citizen needs. However, as the force's work becomes increasingly digital, its mainframe infrastructure became harder to manage. Skilled staff to maintain the technology was difficult to find, and vendor lock-in created potential cost challenges and barriers to technology innovation.

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IT and Telecommunications Office,
ICT Infrastructure Division,
Server Systems Section

To improve staff communication and system integration, the police force sought to move from its legacy environment—including JavaServer Faces (now Jakarta Server Faces) interfaces, SOAP messaging, and JavaServer Pages (now Jakarta Server Pages) for application job batching—to a microservices-based infrastructure with middleware technology.

"Our mix of technologies was extremely difficult to maintain and required a variety of specialist developers," said Jernej Razboršek, Senior Police Inspector at the Republic of Slovenia Ministry of the Interior, Police, General Police Directorate, IT and Telecommunications Office, ICT Infrastructure Division, Server Systems Section. "And we didn't want to be forced to migrate our infrastructure because a vendor decided to stop developing their product. We also wanted more stability but more flexibility."

Adopting a microservices-based approach with Red Hat middleware and management solutions

After completing a proof of concept (POC), the police force decided on Red Hat technology.

"We wanted to explore open source software because of the freedom it provides," said Razboršek. "It was clear from the beginning that Red Hat was a leading candidate for our migration from our mainframe environment to enterprise open source middleware. We found Red Hat products robust and easy to use, and we found Red Hat as a company to be knowledgeable and supportive."

Initially, the police force deployed Red Hat Virtualization as a foundation for a future Red Hat middleware solution, followed by Red Hat JBoss Enterprise Application Platform (EAP), an application server runtime platform for building, deploying, and hosting Java™ Enterprise Edition (now Jakarta Enterprise Edition) applications and services. Red Hat AMQ provides flexible, reliable messaging for real-time integration, and Red Hat Smart Management (formerly Red Hat Satellite) manages updates and security to keep these solutions running optimally.

Agenda Open Systems, the first Red Hat partner in Slovenia, helped the police force set up and expand its Red Hat infrastructure, including ongoing maintenance. In addition, an in-house team wrote Ansible® Playbooks to automate setup of the new JBoss EAP deployment.

The police force's development team then began refactoring more than 100 existing applications into microservices and migrating them to the Red Hat platform. New application creation has been standardized on JBoss EAP using a microservices-based architecture.

Currently, more than ten applications have been launched in the new environment, including solutions for cataloging firearm inventory in police stations, quarantine decision making and documentation, and fingerprint recognition.

Enhancing processes and collaboration to respond to citizens needs faster

Improved application delivery time with agile, efficient approach

The Slovenian National Police Force can now develop and launch new applications in weeks. JBoss EAP provides support for DevOps practices, such as continuous integration and delivery (CI/CD) to help the police force respond quickly to urgent situations. For example, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the police force's developers needed to quickly develop an application for border police that could issue quarantine documentation and integrate with Slovenia's National Institutes for Disease Control.

"We built that application from start to finish in less than three weeks. We expect that the number of apps we have in development will triple in the next year," said Razboršek.

Simplified system management with integrated solution

The Slovenian National Police Force has now simplified deployment, scaling, and management of its application environments—including testing, staging, and production—by standardizing on Red Hat technology. JBoss EAP provides a consistent foundation across the force's server environment, and creating a flexible messaging platform with Red Hat AMQ has helped the police force establish reliable communications between systems.

"Being able to quickly set up reliable messaging means our development team can be more responsive to potential safety threats and meet citizen needs for timely services," said Razboršek.

Red Hat Smart Management helps the force manage its Red Hat software, including improved deployment, organization, and management of the virtual machines (VMs) in Red Hat Virtualization. Now, IT operations teams at the Slovenian National Police Force can now more easily provision, configure, and update systems to optimize performance and stay compliant with government best practices for application development.

Gained access to community innovation, backed by enterprise support

Adopting enterprise open source technology from Red Hat has helped the police force focus on innovation, without life cycle uncertainty. With full visibility into code in open source communities, the security department and other teams can retain control and more effectively prepare for change.

"Knowing that the software we use is open source but also appropriately supported gives us peace of mind," said Razboršek. "And a lot of Red Hat software product developers are active on community project support forums."

Now, the Slovenian National Police Force's IT teams are using their experience with open source technology to find new tools and approaches for collaboration based on community best practices.

Attracted new, skilled talent to support innovative service development

Moving to a platform built with Red Hat's enterprise open source technology is also helping to position the police force as an exciting place to work with new technologies on projects of national importance. As a result, the shift to open source software will help the police force attract new, skilled talent to accelerate its digital transformation efforts.

"While the public sector may struggle to compete with technology firms in terms of salary, we can create a workplace that offers a similar experience: doing important work with the latest methods and open source technologies," said Razboršek.

**About Agenda Open Systems**

Agenda Open Systems is the leading Slovenian Linux® and open source technology integrator with some of the largest open source projects in Slovenia. Working with Red Hat since 2004, Agenda is the first Red Hat partner in Slovenia.

Building on success by expanding open source adoption

The police force plans to expand its enterprise open source infrastructure. It recently adopted Red Hat Ansible Automation Platform to set up JBoss EAP clusters quickly—in 30-45 minutes—and EnterpriseDB clusters and has used Ansible to use and modify playbooks. These playbooks also serve as documentation of standardized processes for easy reference.

The police force is evaluating the addition of Private Automation Hub, Red Hat's self-hosted content management system for Ansible automation content. It is also considering adopting container technology with Red Hat OpenShift® and evolving to application programming interface (API) development with Red Hat 3scale API Management.

"Moving from monolithic applications to microservices with Red Hat has brought major improvements to our work," said Razboršek. "We have many more applications in testing and development, and we continue to benefit from faster development capabilities. Red Hat remains critical to our plans for the future."

About the Slovenian National Police Force

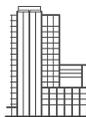
The Slovenian National Police Force is the government agency that is responsible for law enforcement in Slovenia. As an independent body within the framework of the Ministry of the Interior, the force has around 8,500 personnel responsible for protecting citizens' lives, personal safety, and property, and protecting and controlling state borders and more.



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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 integrate new and existing IT applications, develop cloud-native applications, standardize on our industry-leading operating system, and automate, secure, and manage complex environments. Award-winning support, training, and consulting services make Red Hat a trusted adviser to the Fortune 500. As a strategic partner to cloud providers, system integrators, application vendors, customers, and open source communities, Red Hat can help organizations prepare for the digital future.



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