

Government Agency Containerizes Logistics App with BlackBerry Dynamics without Needing to Code

Boosting employee productivity while complying with security requirements for mobile apps that manifest sensitive data

Challenge

A department in the government agency had purchased a logistics app which would allow employees to use iOS devices to scan barcodes on assets across the government agency and validate those against a central asset database. The app accessed information that the government agency deemed sensitive. As a result, the government agency's cybersecurity team would not allow the app to be deployed to employees' mobile devices because the app did not comply with the organization's security policy. The policy required that an app had to be containerized with the BlackBerry Dynamics SDK prior to being deployed to a government issued device. BlackBerry Dynamics is the mobile application management (MAM) component of the BlackBerry Unified Endpoint Management (UEM) solution, which is what was being used to manage mobile devices and apps across the organization. By ensuring that apps are in the BlackBerry Dynamics container, the government agency's IT department can ensure an additional layer of security on devices managed by BlackBerry UEM.

The independent software vendor (ISV) that had developed the mobile app was unwilling to create a custom version of the app that used the BlackBerry Dynamics SDK. Servicing this one-off request would distract their developers and impact the productivity of their engineering team. Additionally, the ISV would have had to provide ongoing support for this custom version, which they were not willing to do. As a result, the app was not usable for many months after the department had bought licenses for it.

The Solution

Blue Cedar was recommended by BlackBerry, providing a platform that orchestrates post-development mobile app deployment workflows for efficiency and compliance through a blend of platform services and technology integrations.

One of the services of the Blue Cedar platform is the ability to embed BlackBerry Dynamics into mobile apps without coding. The Blue Cedar team demonstrated how easy it was to integrate BlackBerry Dynamics into the app. All anyone in the department had to do was upload the unsigned binary for the ISV app, which the ISV had provided to the organization, to the Blue Cedar platform and click a button to generate a BlackBerry Dynamics-enabled version of the mobile app.



A government agency in an OECD member country has a workforce of over 70,000 employees and is responsible for collecting taxes and administering the tax laws of the country.

Industry: Government

Situation: A department in this government agency purchased a logistics app for its employees to use. However, they were unable to distribute the mobile version of the app to employees because it did not comply with the organization's cybersecurity policy. The policy requires that all mobile apps that manifest sensitive government data be protected and manageable through the BlackBerry Dynamics container. Without a dedicated internal team or assistance from the app provider, the agency was unable to integrate the BlackBerry Dynamics SDKs into the app binary in order to comply with the cybersecurity policy. Because of this, since purchasing the app, the department was not able to utilize the mobile application to increase productivity among their employees.

Solution: Blue Cedar Accelerator for BlackBerry

Results:

- Integrated the BlackBerry Dynamics SDK into a 3rd-party ISV logistics app, without any manual coding by developers.
- Ensured compliance with organization-wide security policy while boosting employee productivity.
- Minimized initial costs for integrating BlackBerry Dynamics into the mobile app, and ongoing integration costs required for app updates.

The Benefits

Easily Comply with Cybersecurity Policy. Anyone in the department can use Blue Cedar's no-code platform service to embed BlackBerry Dynamics. Additionally, Blue Cedar is a tier one BlackBerry partner, sold and supported by BlackBerry, and has successfully applied its no-code technology to hundreds of other mobile apps. This provided the government agency's cybersecurity team with confidence about the efficacy of the Blue Cedar platform.

Increased Productivity. Once the app was put in the BlackBerry Dynamics container it was in compliance with the government agency's security policy and could be immediately deployed to users. Employees started using the logistics app in daily tasks and the department observed increased productivity.

Contain Mobile Security Integration Costs. Blue Cedar enabled the department to BlackBerry Dynamics-enable the logistics app without relying on mobile developers or cybersecurity developers with expertise in the BlackBerry Dynamics SDK. The department can now also cost effectively ensure continued compliance with security policies even when the ISV releases app updates. Without Blue Cedar, the department would have had to negotiate with the ISV to get access to source code and, as it is part of a government organization, go through a time consuming bid process to hire developers to manually code in the BlackBerry Dynamics SDK. Developers would have been needed full time in order to perform the initial integration and the ongoing work needed to ensure app updates remain compliant with the organization's security policy. At a minimum, the department would have had to incur a cost of \$200,000 per year, which is the fully loaded cost for one mobile app developer, assuming that the developer had expertise for both iOS and Android.

Flexible Consumption Options. Though the department is consuming Blue Cedar from the cloud, which the standard is to use the platform, it is also possible to deploy the Blue Cedar platform on-premises to perform no-code integration of BlackBerry Dynamics. Having this as an option was attractive to the IT department at the government agency. Other departments at the government agency were evaluating Blue Cedar and preferred on-premises deployments.