

G-Cloud 14 Service Description

Identity & Access Management

Identity & Access Management

Methods is an NCSC Assured Cyber Consultancy, facilitating the development of frameworks of policies and security guardrails for Identity & Access Management (IdAM), in a complex and interconnected digital environment, to ensure that the right users (part of the ecosystem) have the appropriate and relevant access and privileges to resources.

What is the Service

Methods is an NCSC Assured Cyber Consultancy who has been assured to the highest standards as defined by National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) and professional bodies such as UK Cyber Security Council. With a proven track record of delivering cyber security consultancy expertise, we pride ourselves on working closely with our clients - often augmenting in-house capability.

A Cyber Security Essentials Plus certified company, the services provided by the Cyber Portfolio align with ISO/IEC 20700 family of information security management standards, ensuring work is appropriately scoped, planned and delivered to the highest standards.

Methods provide a holistic approach to Cloud Platform Security with work undertaken by industry qualified Cyber security experts, many holding CCP Lead Practitioner else qualified to Chartered status, able to offer approved guidance and support to both public and private sector clients, covering the entirety of the Security organisation.

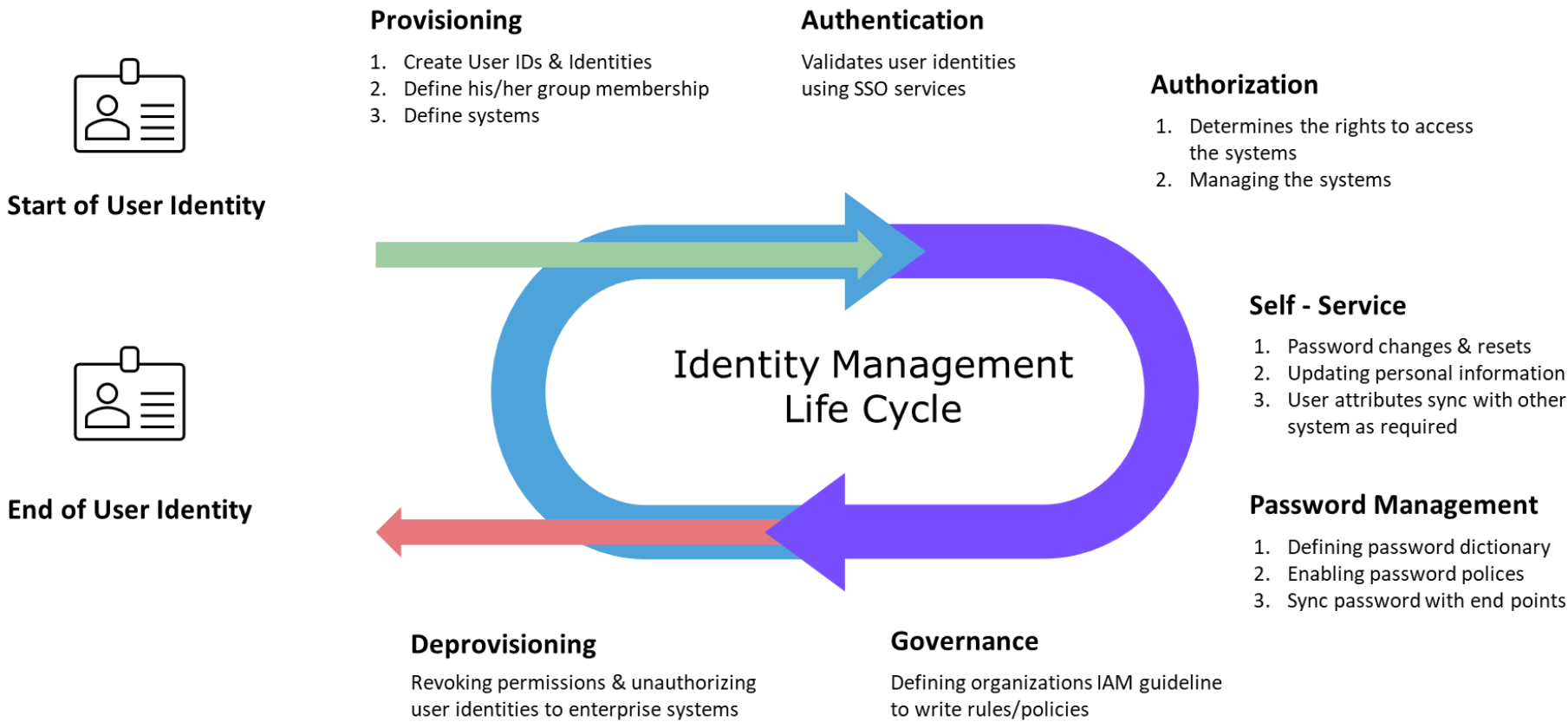
Methods manage engagements in accordance with industry best practice standards and frameworks and meet NCSC requirements for certified professional cyber services companies. Methods provide services for Critical National Infrastructure (CNI) customers across Government and the wider public and private sector. Engaging and working closely with our clients to ensure the services we provide have been correctly scoped, planned and delivered securely, with our customers interests and needs at the forefront of our thinking.

Methods has considerable knowledge and track records in designing secure access management systems to ensure right entities (people or things) use the right resources (applications or data) when they need to, without interference, using the devices they want to use (BYOD, CYOD, COPE and COBO). We implement industry best practice to establish and maintain secure information, security postures, controls, and services, with strategic roadmaps and governing architectures in mind, while adopting a zero-trust model and strategy.

Methods understand, access is one of the most exploited and abused aspects of security, because it is the main portal into the IT ecosystem and it leads to critical assets of the organisation. Access controls need to be applied in a layered defense-in-depth model and with our understanding, we assist organisations on how to control these exploits and plug the gaps. Guiding the client in exploring access controls conceptually and dig into the technologies the industry puts in place to enforce these concepts.

We recognise all the technologies and processes to make up a full enterprise Identity Access Management (IdAM) security architecture design solution, as part of the organisation strategic roadmap, which encompass the following key areas:

- User account management
- Single sign-on (SSO) functionality
- JML user access flows
- Managing rights and permissions for user accounts
- Access control
- Privileged Access Management
- Credential management
- Auditing and monitoring



Contact details

Methods understand how important IdAM solution is in a Zero-trust architecture and the critically to adopt zero-trust principles such as least privilege access and identity-based security policies. The key areas Methods adopt for IdM is:

- Central Identity management - Managing access to resources at the identity level.
- Secure Access - AAA (Authentication, Authorisation and Auditing)
- Policy-based control - “least privilege” and “need to know” guard-rails.
- Zero-Trust Policy - Constantly being authenticated, authorised and access managed.
- Secure Privileged Accounts - Tiered limited access
- Audit - Logging, Reporting and Monitoring
- Training and Support – Education and Awareness.

Our methodology and approach are agile, which is designed to integrate seamlessly into the organisation, complementing and innovating the current working practices. Whether the organisation is looking for ad-hoc support, or a long-term partner, our team of professional, verified and approved by NCSC Cyber Security and UK Cyber Security Council, our experts, with the ability to help identify and implement best and most viable solutions. Aligned with NIST, NCSC, OWASP, and MOD Secure by Design & DEFSTAN 05-138 for dynamic security solutions.

One of our core tenets is collaboration, which lays out how our team works with the client. We adopt the principles of openness and knowledge transfer to empower the people and build impressive, sustainable governance around complex multi-cloud solutions. We work closely with key stakeholders and programme teams to devise a bespoke solution that meets the demands of the business processes, strategic business objectives and regulatory requirements. Our consultants have a strong background in both public and private sectors and will quickly adapt to the environment, providing specialist expertise to design innovative and risk-based solutions that meet your specific business needs and outcomes.

We at Methods, provide pragmatic and proportionate risk-based guidance as trusted consultants covering compliance, architecture and design assurance; system accreditation MOD DefCon standards. Our experienced consultants have proficiency working on a variety of Government projects with different divisions including critical national infrastructure (CNI), defence, policing, justice, education, healthcare, border control, central government, local authorities and government digital services.

In line with HMG requirements, Methods is certified to Cyber Essentials Plus, ISO/IEC 27001, ISO 27017 and ISO 9001 standards, so we can provide customers with robust, consistent assurance in our quality processes and the protection of our systems and customer-related data. We adopt certified frameworks for HMG where data is classified OFFICIAL through to SECRET and above. Methods has a large pool of SC and DV cleared UK personnel and has experience of designing, building and maintaining governance and security to deliver service offerings at OFFICIAL, SECRET and ABOVE SECRET classifications.

What it can do for you

Methods is an NCSC Assured Cyber Consultancy who have been assured to NCSC standards, working towards providing guidance to organisations to have secure and resilient Identity & Access Management (IdAM) system for safeguarding sensitive data, complying with regulations, mitigating insider threats, streamlining user management, enabling secure collaboration, and protecting against cyber-attacks and identity theft.

Service Features

1. AAAA - Authentication, Authorisation, Accountability and Audit
2. User management - Single sign on, federation
3. Central user repository
4. Privileged Access Management
5. Audit, Logging, Reporting and Monitoring
6. Separation of duties and separation of privileges
7. Granular polices in a zero-trust model design
8. Realtime detection and automation response
9. Ensuring “Need to know” and “least-privilege” principles are adopted
10. Adhering to industry best practice for IdAM

Service Benefits

1. Establishing a consistent user experience across multiple systems/domains
2. Enabling a single-sign-on, allowing users quick and secure access
3. Reduce remembering multiple complex passwords
4. Central encrypted location of audit trails of user actions
5. Defence in depth and guardrails to prevent blast radius
6. Automated actions for JML and associated access to resources
7. Improved management of user provision and deprovision of resources
8. Intrusion detection and intrusion prevention systems for unauthorised access
9. Pre and post network access verification and validation
10. Safeguarding Remote Environments

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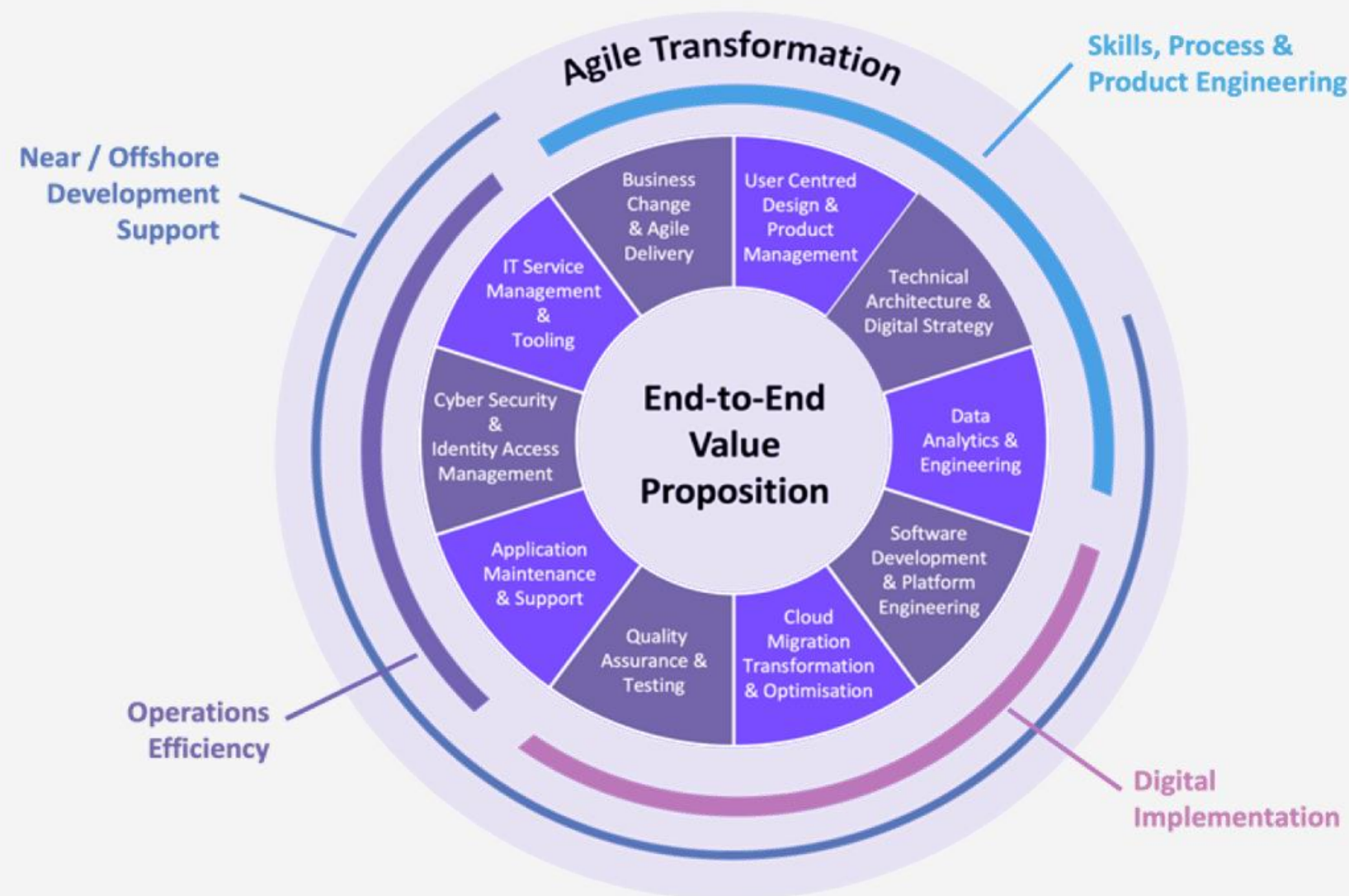
End-to-end transformation and innovation experts

Applying our skills in innovation and collaboration from across the Methods Group, to deliver end-to-end business and technical solutions that are people-centred, safe, and designed for the future.

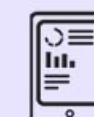
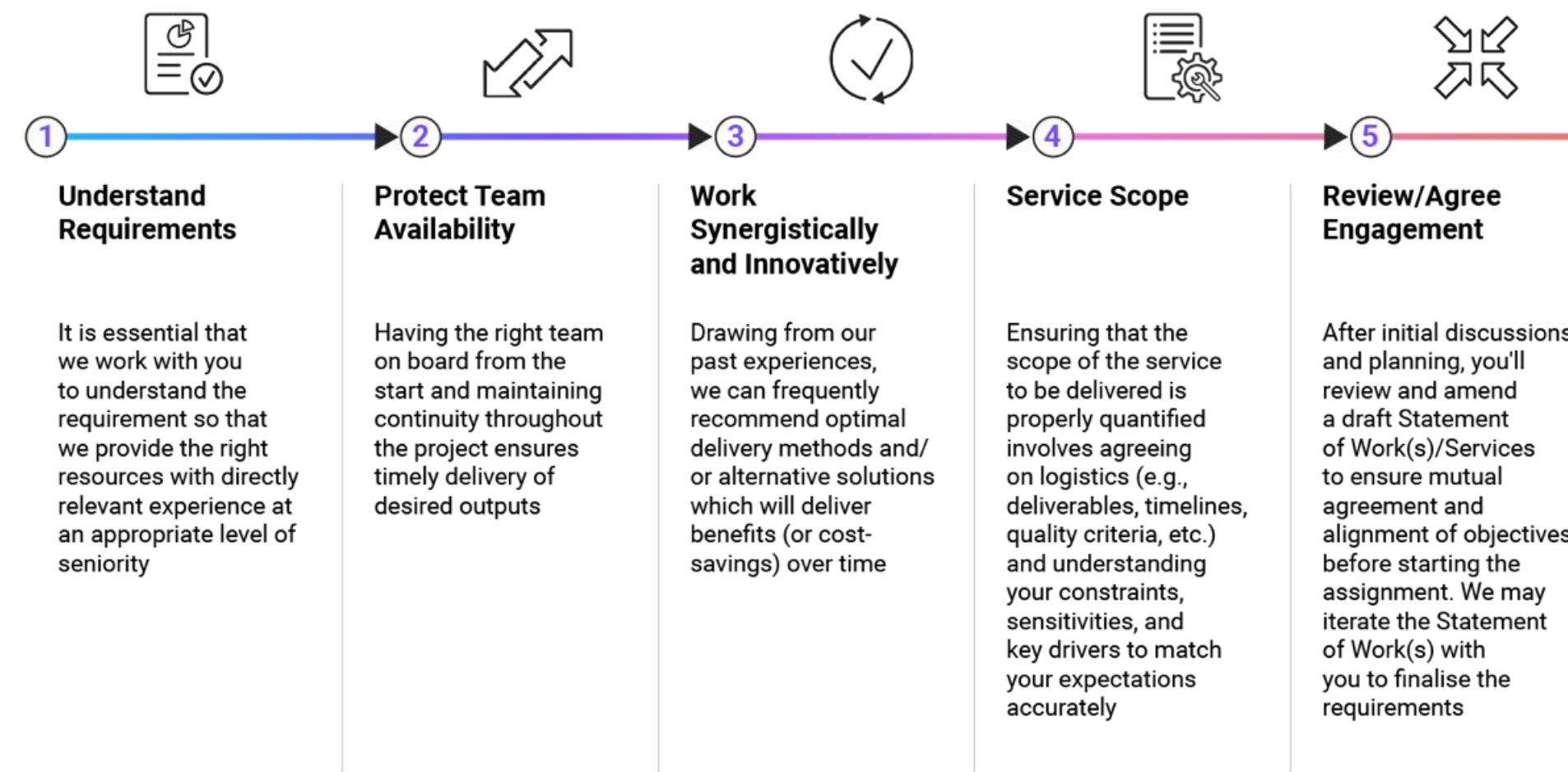
Methods provide collaborative and innovative solutions to help Central Government adapt to the changing landscape and deliver better outcomes for citizens.

With a focus on driving interoperability and innovation in UK Central Government, we have helped multiple organisations in the sector modernise their IT architecture, systems, strategy, and operating models to improve organisational resilience and service delivery.

Methods deliver wide-ranging services and thought leadership to support delivery including:



Onboarding and offboarding process



Ordering and Invoicing

Once we have agreed a Statement of Work(s) we will sign the appropriate agreement and complete a Call Off contract with an attached Statement of Work(s), and submission of a Purchase Order. We will then set up a mutually acceptable start date and commence work.

Payment terms are 30 days or less as may be agreed.

Please note - we are unable to accept Government Procurement Card (GPC) payments.



Customer Responsibilities

For any given requirement, we will identify any dependencies on the customer (e.g. access to key stakeholders, facilities, documentation, etc.) and agree these at the start of the work.

Making a difference

The work we do each day is focused on delivering a positive difference for the public sector for the benefit of society as a whole.



Customer stories



Stopped a Central Government high-severity Cyber threat in its tracks with a Threat Management solution that continuously monitors the security posture and responds to active cyber security incidents and vulnerabilities fast



Simplified 230+ service offerings with no disruption to live service to deliver service management maturity that was standardised to be more efficient, and optimised to reduce cost at a critical time for HMCTS



Put nature at the heart of government decision-making using digital and AI innovation to explore 21 natural capital ecosystem assessments with Defra



Reduced service costs by 60% through the design and transition of Robotic Process Automation of 1.2M service billing transactions per month at NOS Telecoms Cabinet Office



Enabled the delivery of 4.7M care and food supplies to people who were at the highest risk from COVID-19 through the development, delivery, and maintenance of the Shielding Vulnerable People service at the Cabinet Office



Increased speed and traceability of annual education funding allocations by transforming the Funding Service at ESFA in the DFE