Security Architecture

Service description details

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Security Architecture

Methods is an NCSC Assured Cyber Consultancy, delivering Security Architecture designs and principals, for Public, Private and Hybrid environments, as part of a delivery lifecycle, to HMG/NCSC standards. Providing an agile-delivery approach, consisting of preventive, detective and corrective security controls that will be implemented to protect the IT security posture.

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 qualified Cyber Security consultants, with industry sector knowledge and experience in developing security principles, methods and models that are designed to align to the organisation strategic roadmap, with the objective to keep the organisation safe from cyber threats and attacks. We understand how to translate the business requirements, to executable security requirements, adopting industry best practice in the form of NCSC, SABSA, TOGAF and OSA.

Security architecture plays a crucial role in safeguarding the organisation IT ecosystem and having a well-designed security architecture offers several business benefits, such as:

- Risk Reduction: A robust security architecture helps identify potential vulnerabilities and threats, allowing organisations to mitigate risks effectively.
- Compliance: Helping organisations achieve compliance with relevant regulations and standards such as NCSC GovAssure Cyber Assessment Framework (CAF), Cyber Resilience Audit (CRA), GDPR , DPA, NIS, FCA, ISO/IEC, PCI DSS, Cyber Essentials, etc.
- Cost Savings: Saving organisations significant costs associated with data breaches, legal penalties, and reputational damage.
- Efficient Incident Response: Enabling organisations to detect, analyse, and respond to security incidents promptly and effectively.
- Protection of Intellectual Property (IP): Implementing access controls, encryption, and data loss prevention mechanisms, in order to maintain competitive advantage and secrecy.
- Business Continuity and Resilience: Ensuring that critical systems and resources remain available during cyberattacks or other disruptions.
- Enhanced Trust and Reputation: Build trust among customers, partners, and stakeholders and providing the confidence that the data is secure.
- Scalability and Flexibility: Scalable and adaptable to accommodate growth, changes in technology, and evolving threat landscapes.
- Alignment with Business Objectives: Incorporating security requirements into strategic planning and decision-making processes and enable business initiatives rather than hindering them.
- Continuous Improvement: Continuously evaluating and refining security measures based on emerging threats, vulnerabilities, and industry best practices and maintaining a strong security posture over time.

Methods understand the benefits and risks of a digital world, the importance the Security Architects role plays in protecting the data, services, systems and networks, which is essential in reducing and fighting cyber threats, leading to a trustable security posture. Our deliverable lies in setting the standards for implementing Cyber Security on the organisation's network or related data, as part of the secure zero trust model.

We can accelerate digital transformation programmes with our security architecture processes and methodology, to ensure organisations are secure and compliant. Using a unified security design, where we look to address the necessities and potential risks involved in a certain scenario or environment of the organisation.

The security architecture will develop, clearly report and provide in-depth security control specifications, using the architecture lifecycle which include:

- Risk Assessment: Reviewing the organisation influence of vital business assets, against the effects of vulnerabilities and security threats.
- Architecture and Design: Design and architect of security services, which create business risk exposure objectives.
- Implementation: Security services and processes are implemented, activated and controlled. Assurance services are designed to ensure that the security policy and standards, security architecture decisions, and risk management are mirrored in the real runtime implementation.
- Operations and Monitoring: Day-to-day processes, such as threat and vulnerability management and threat management. Steps are taken to supervise and handle the operational state in addition to the depth and breadth of the systems security posture.

As part of the security architecture, we adhere to NCSC standards and look to perform the following service offering:

- Develop and design architectures that manage identified risks, using proportionate controls.
- Identification and articulation of risks in conceptual and detailed design of systems and services.
- Providing guidance on how to reduce the likelihood of exploitation of vulnerabilities or impact in the event of a compromise.
- Providing guidance on how to secure development, build, deployment, operation and management of systems and services.
- Providing guidance on the adoption and secure implementation of common architectural blueprints or patterns.
- Providing guidance on selecting technologies, by provide adequate mitigation to potential vulnerabilities identified in a system architecture.
- Providing a summary of the technical security analysis, in a language that can be reviewed by different stakeholders.

Contact details

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Service description details

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 across 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 are 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 NPVV3, 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 has been assured to NCSC standards, working towards providing appropriate balance of technology and business processes to be used to mitigate security risks. Designing and implementing solutions that not only reduce the risks to the organisation, but also ensures successful business outcomes, which is performed by our industry qualified and proficient Security Architects.

Service Features

1. Selecting the relevant products, components and techniques
2. Ensure design are risk adverse and apply adequate controls
3. Design and implement architecture solutions, which are appropriate
4. Adhering to and incorporating best security practice
5. Including the core security technologies in the architecture solutions
6. Reporting on security vulnerabilities and techniques for defence
7. Ensuring compliance with key features of relevant security architectures
8. Designing and developing documented processes
9. Develop processes to maintain the security of a system
10. Delivered for all security classifications from OFFICIAL to Above-SECRET

Service Benefits

1. Strong security architecture leading to fewer security breaches
2. Help organisations identify assets of critical importance
3. Proactive security measures save on downtime and business impact
4. Mitigate disciplinary fines in the event of a breach
5. Proactive security measures save organisation money
6. Mitigate disciplinary measures in the event of a breach
7. Compliance with key data security standards
8. Prevent loss of business confidence, credibility and trust
9. Provides confidence to stakeholders over service security
10. Reduces cost by addressing security early in projects

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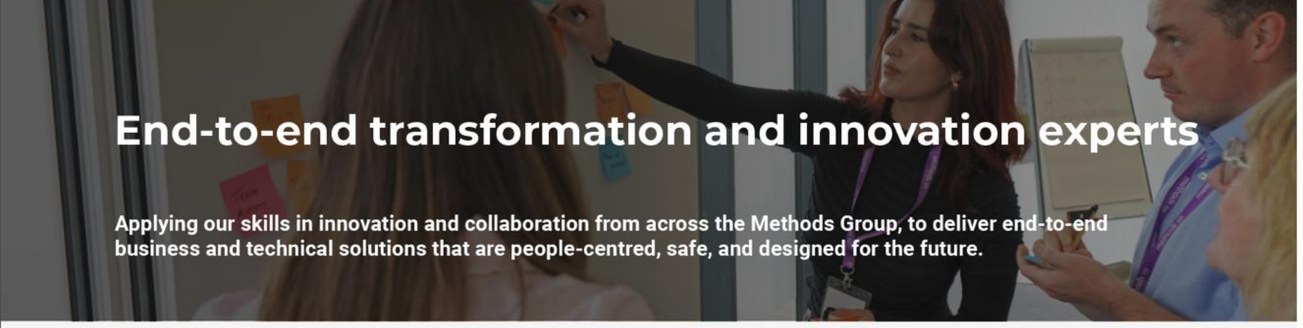


End-to-end transformation and innovation experts

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

1. **Understand Requirements**

   It is essential that we work with you to understand the requirement so that we provide the right resources with directly relevant experience at an appropriate level of seniority

2. **Protect Team Availability**

   Having the right team on board from the start and maintaining continuity throughout the project ensures timely delivery of desired outputs

3. **Work Synergistically and Innovatively**

   Drawing from our past experiences, we can frequently recommend optimal delivery methods and/or alternative solutions which will deliver benefits (or cost-savings) over time

4. **Service Scope**

   Ensuring that the scope of the service to be delivered is properly quantified involves agreeing on logistics (e.g., deliverables, timelines, quality criteria, etc.) and understanding your constraints, sensitivities, and key drivers to match your expectations accurately

5. **Review/Agree Engagement**

   After initial discussions and planning, you'll review and amend a draft Statement of Work(s)/Services to ensure mutual agreement and alignment of objectives before starting the assignment. We may iterate the Statement of Work(s) with you to finalise the requirements

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

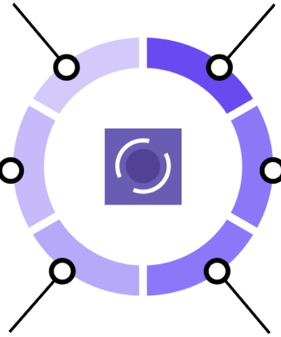
The work we do each day is focused on delivering a positive difference for the public sector for the benefit of society as a whole.

Environment

We use the 'recycle, reuse, repair, refuse' approach to waste reduction to minimise landfill waste, support climate initiatives, and enhance biodiversity, creating a sustainable environment for our colleagues and community

Volunteering

We continue to support charitable causes that align with and support our values including our charity partner and VCSE initiatives



Investment in Talent

We cultivate young talent through our GRAVITATE programme, championing vibrant apprenticeship and graduate schemes while aiding tech career exploration for individuals aged 14-24

Diversifying our Supply Chains

We diversify our local supply chains, promoting small business enterprise and engaging local people, SME, and micro-business suppliers

Staff Wellbeing

We support colleague wellbeing through clear career pathways, strengthened PDPs, and our continued commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant, including achieving Gold Employer Status. Moreover, we continue to support our colleagues holistically, considering them as complete individuals at every career stage with Methods

Safeguarding Services

We continue to provide insightful thought leadership on leveraging modern technology to secure our public services for future generations. This involves speaking at industry events, educating youth on tech career paths, and offering pro-bono advice to senior policymakers

Customer stories

Cloud Hosting & Service Modernisation
Modernised digital services using secure cloud hosting, streamlined legacy workflows, and improved data insights. Delivered faster decisions, reduced manual effort, and a more transparent, **user-friendly experience** for internal teams and external users.

Cloud-Based ITSM Consolidation
Unified multiple service desks onto a cloud-based ITSM platform, standardising processes and automating workflows. Improved incident, change, and problem management, **boosting** overall **service reliability, efficiency, and organisational visibility**.

Large-Scale Cloud Migration (100+ Apps / 120TB)
Delivered cloud migration of **100+ legacy applications** and **120TB of** data with **100% availability**. Strengthened compliance, improved transparency, and significantly enhanced operational resilience across critical digital services.

Azure Migration & Modern Workplace Enablement
Migrated data centres to Azure and deployed modern workplace cloud services, delivering secure, scalable infrastructure. Achieved improved user experience, strengthened security posture, and **£1m savings** - all with zero service disruption.

Cloud ITSM Migration (ServiceNow SaaS)
Successfully migrated from a legacy ITSM tool to a modern, cloud-based ServiceNow platform. Delivered scalable, robust service operations, strengthened governance, and enabled faster, more consistent digital service delivery across the organisation.

Cloud-Native Data Pipelines (Azure Integration)
Built automated Azure Data Factory pipelines into a Lakehouse architecture, using Bronze/Silver/Gold layers and Delta with CI/CD. Delivered secure daily refreshes, improved data quality, lower manual effort, and more efficient reporting.