

# The FDS Review

April 2021

## Message from the President

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I am thrilled to share this inaugural edition of the FDS newsletter with you. Those of you who have been with us for some time will be able to appreciate the evolution of our employee communications. We began in earnest about a year ago with almost daily emails from me with updates on the state of operations during the pandemic, with the underlying tone being "don't panic!" As we deciphered customer and local health guidance, the messages became a way of not only communicating updates on our processes and COVID response, but a way for us to build our community. We exchanged photos of pets, families, and home offices, shared virtual holiday celebrations, and observed important events in our country's history. Some of us even noted highlights of the Packers season. In the Fall of 2020 we held two virtual All Hands meetings, at which we were able to put faces to the names of our colleagues around the world.

This newsletter is the next iteration of FDS employee communications and while it may be more formal than my emails, my goal is for us to continue in the spirit of community engagement that we have fostered. Each month we will highlight a business line, a program, or an employee as well as sharing information. Please continue to send your photos, reactions, and suggestions to [FDSNEWS@feddata.com](mailto:FDSNEWS@feddata.com).

Spring is a time when we all feel a sense of hope and optimism: the long dark days of winter are behind us, the MLB season has begun, and we are enjoying the brief window of warm weather without humidity here on the East Coast. Progress continues here at FDS, as we are slowly but surely getting settled into our new office in Columbia, thanks to the efforts of Kelly Hammen and the IT and Security teams. The next phase will be the accreditation of the SCIF, which will allow us to bring the team in Linthicum in and to enhance our offerings to our customers. We have made investments that will ensure we are successful in major initiatives. Each of you can contribute to our continued growth by referring friends and colleagues and earn a pretty nice referral payment for yourself. Check out page 5 for details.

Wishing you all a wonderful April.

Lonny

## Monthly Business Line Highlight: ITS

IT Services specializes in meeting Federal Government technology requirements using new and innovative solutions leveraging a collaborative, integrated DevSecOpps Framework. Our approach brings Devops rapid development and deployment cycles with built-in security. This ensures high quality solutions that meet our customer needs and are delivered in a timely and secure manner,

ITS has demonstrated these capabilities through our various virtual desktop deployments, software defined network implementations, private cloud build-outs and our disaster recovery and continuity of operations services. Current clients include: the Department of Defense (to include: the Office of the SecDef, The Army, DISA) the Department of Commerce, the Internal Revenue Service, the Department of Justice.

### Focus Areas:

- Converged Infrastructure modernization strategy and Deployments
- Virtualization optimization
- COOP/Disaster Recovery strategy and implementation
- Network optimization and performance Defensive cyber operations.

## SPLUNK

-By Brian Woodley, ITS

Splunk has modernized our customer's Security Operation Center (SOC) by enhancing their capability to detect and respond to threats. The legacy environment was outdated and the customer was looking for a system that would scale to handle multiple TB of logs per day in a highly available configuration. Splunk was a perfect solution to meet these requirements. We were able to quickly stand up an environment to handle the ingestion and search load of the SOC. The Splunk platform allowed the SOC to migrate their existing "basic" correlation searches into more complex searches resulting in faster detection of threats.

This enhanced capability has reduced SOC analysts' time spent researching low level threats. Due to the ability to ingest additional log types, false positives have been reduced by correlating the additional available information. This has allowed SOC analysts to spend more time identifying and eliminating more advanced threats from the environment. The threats were using tactics and techniques that were undetectable given the architectural resource constraints of the legacy environment. Splunk has provided the SOC with the capability to protect our customers resources now and into the future.



## Benefits of Cloud Computing for the DoD Community

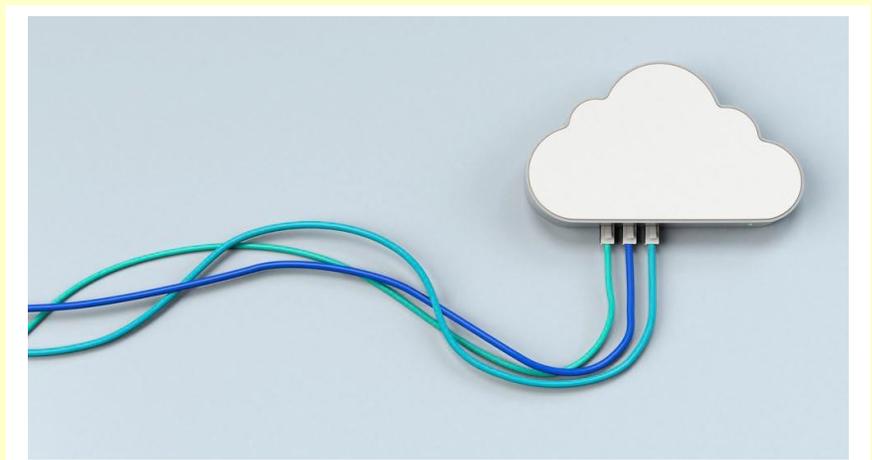
-By Chris Petoskey, ITS

Like most buzz words of DevSecOps, Cloud Native, Kubernetes, Orchestration, IaC, etc., "Cloud computing" is a service that has proven to be a hot topic within the DoD. The drive to the Cloud started during the Obama administration as Cloud First, updated during the Trump administration as Cloud Smart. The DoD has attempted to address cloud strategy through many fronts the biggest of which are the DoD Cloud Strategy (Dec 2018), DoD Cloud Security Requirements Guide (SRG) V1R3 (Mar 2017), and DoD Secure Cloud Computing Architecture (SCCA) Functional Requirement V2.9 (Jan 2017). These policies and directives have driven the foundation of what the DoD is attempting to do with Cloud computing. These policies have led to the benefit of the FedRAMP process and wider reciprocity. Through these policies and the FedRAMP process, DoD customers can receive packages that have been through Third Party Assessment Organizations and DISA Provisional ATO process to leverage tools that are secure and validated repeatedly among multiple agencies.

Cloud computing also has significant benefits for the DoD in modernization efforts. Cloud allows for built in automation and setup through code deployments of infrastructure and configuration. All public Cloud services have this built into the offering and are free services to use. When evaluated and done properly this allows for immediate actions based off of common scheme, unique identifiers, and tagging. Cloud services also provide ease of scalability and resiliency to DoD customers through ease of scaled groups of services and inherent regions and zones of service that give immediate redundancies built into the cloud services.

As the DoD builds its technical skill set to consume and implement these advantages, they will find that once they are mature in these practices they will be able make jumps to other items, like Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI/ML). The ability for the DoD to cheaply consume vast amounts of compute on an as needed basis has and will continue to change the increase of dependability of AI/ML services. Along with this maturity they will be able to push these and all Cloud services further to the tactical edge to greater support the mission operators on the ground.

To leverage this, appropriate evaluations must be done first and maturity in processes must come, but the end result can become a driving factor for the war fighter. When done properly the DoD will be able to have the information they need and want immediately available whenever and wherever they want it.



## News from Human Resources



FEDDATA has several **HOT JOBS** available. Visit our website at <https://www.feddata.com/careers/> to view a full list of ALL vacancies.

### **Job Title**

- *Help Desk Specialist*
- *PostgreSQL/Oracle Database Administrator*
- *Discovery Analyst*
- *Computer Scientist*
- *Cyber Threat Analyst*
- *Database Administrator*
- *Digital Forensic Analyst*
- *Senior Systems Engineer*

### **Location:**

*Laurel MD*  
*Washington, DC*  
*Fort Meade, MD*  
*Fort Meade, MD*  
*Arlington, VA*  
*Washington, DC*  
*Arlington, VA*  
*Arlington, VA*

*If you have any questions regarding our open positions, please contact [recruiting@feddata.com](mailto:recruiting@feddata.com)*

## Employee Referral Bonus Program



At FedData, we are always looking to grow our teams with talented people, just like you. Our employees are our most valuable resource.

Refer qualified candidates and as a "thank you" we will offer you an employee referral bonus up to \$4,000.

### **BONUS ELIGIBILITY**

#### ***NEW Standard Referral Bonus Amounts***

Non Cleared	\$1500
Secret	\$2000
Top Secret	\$2500
TS/SCI	\$3000
TS/SCI with CI or FS Poly	\$4000

*For more details about the employee referral bonus program, do not hesitate to contact Portia Brooks, Director of Recruiting at [portia.brooks@feddata.com](mailto:portia.brooks@feddata.com).*

## Security Update: Reporting Foreign Travel

Although advance notice of foreign travel has always been a requirement, we are now required to report dates of travel and the date of your reporting to the Government directly via DISS. Therefore, it is very important that if you have foreign travel planned you notify FedData Security no less than 15 days but no more than six (6) months before you leave the United States. Please send notifications to [SecurityFDS@feddata.com](mailto:SecurityFDS@feddata.com).

