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Outpacing the competition by adopting a “Design-First” philosophy towards IaC

How a major financial institution adopted a superior process for creating and managing cloud infrastructures that gave a competitive advantage through increased velocity, and strengthened the security posture with architectural standardization.

Major Successes

- Reduce Learning Curve for Terraform Proficiency
- Eliminate Documentation Accuracy Issues
- Increase Velocity to Create and Manage IaC
- Analyze Code for Security, Cost Effectiveness, and Policy Compliance
- Utilize Reusable Templates of Architectures to Promote Standardization

Brainboard, Inc.

www.brainboard.co | sales@brainboard.co | 513-833-5373

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The Cloud Infrastructure Challenges

- Development teams had **inconsistent experience with infrastructure as code**, with no proven way to train them.
- Designing, creating, and deploying cloud infrastructures in Azure were being **measured in weeks**, with bottlenecks in communication between cloud architects and DevOps.
- **Lack of standardization** regarding security, policy, and understanding infrastructure costs increased the risks.
- Wasted time incurred from **duplicate coding and toil.**

Brainboard's Solution

- Brainboard's unique cloud designer generates Terraform code in real time, allowing engineers to learn the Infrastructure as code language significantly faster.
- The import solution allowed the Azure environment to be migrated to Brainboard with minimal effort, saving dozens of hours
- This code is then analyzed for cost estimation, security vulnerabilities, and policy compliance using the platform's native CI/CD workflow designer. This effectively shifted-left the entire process and resulted in an 86% reduction in time to go from design to deployment. This meant deployments happened in a matter of hours instead of weeks.
- This allowed for the creation of approved architecture templates that resulted in the creation of a catalogue of standardized, pre-approved architectural templates.

Customer benefits

- **The end-result allows the business to respond to client requests in a timely manner and allow their legal services team more time to solve their client's challenges; giving them an edge over their competitors.**
- Brainboard's ability to generate code on-the-fly from the drag and drop designed means there is always a 100% accuracy of the code to the design. Because people are visual learners, the learning curve is flattened.
- By using the CI/CD workflow designer, which combines third part tools in one place, teams reduce their feedback loop and "shift-left" the entire creation process.
- The collaborative nature of Brainboard's tool means architects, DevOps, managers, and developers can simultaneously create and manage regardless of physical location.

RBAC options within the platform allow for the efficient allocation of responsibilities to the right individuals and teams.

Supported cloud providers include: GCP, OCI, Azure, and AWS.

Brainboard can connect to existing AWS and Azure accounts to create valid Terraform code for legacy environments.

Hosting options include SaaS, Single Tenant, and Self-Hosted.

Average DevOps/Cloud eng Salary	$148,000
Annual Working Hours	2600
Hourly wage	$56.92
Employees	10
Total Hourly cost	$569.23
Infrastructure hours without Brainboard	45
Infrastructure hours Brainboard	6
Cost without Brainboard	$25,615
Cost with Brainboard	$3,415
Savings	**$22,200**
% Savings	**86%**

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