Accelerating Warfighter Support via Web-Based Tools

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Project Objective and Intern Contribution:

Our goal was to modernize the military's development process, reducing an average development-deployment cycle from 10-15 years down to just 3-5 years.

Method:

How do you modernize the most advanced military in the world? We started by researching and implementing Agile development cycles within Jira. Then, we met with leadership to begin phasing out the aging Waterfall methodology. Specifically, we created tools to develop flexible Workflows representing stages of Agile development.

Project managers aren’t the only people doing work on the Range, so next we launched a site serving as a central hub for the Sea Range Support Division to share information, create forms and tickets, and coordinate with one another.

Lastly, we kept our eye on the ball. We met bi-weekly with stakeholders for feedback and goal adjustments. Collectively, we contributed to the live utility of these tools with forms, links, and buttons, accessible design, and, of course, aesthetics.

Insights:

In the span of 8 weeks, we managed to develop a practical and intuitive web site that will be deployed by late August 2022.

As interns, we got hands-on experience doing real web-development, sharpening our skills in the most common programming languages in the world, and in the service of our nation.

Some valuable insight we gained was not to wait to begin working and exploring what opportunities were waiting for us. The internship is what you make of it.

Results / Accomplishments / Next Steps:

The impact for the Navy is demonstrably improved warfighter effectiveness; the people behind him are now working 300% faster.

From this point, it is important for the Sea Range to utilize the tools we’ve created, or - if the site is unmaintained, or if leadership fails to acclimate Agile development - they will cease to be helpful.

Otherwise, we have demonstrated that web-based tools have the power to transform the capabilities of an already storied Range. In the future, we can expect this foundation to improve U.S. military outcomes against similarly flexible opposition and carry them forward into the digital age.