

# Building Unbreakable Systems: Risk-Driven DevSecOps in Action

## Practical Best Practices

Securing distributed systems is complex. True resilience comes from robust practices, not just tools.



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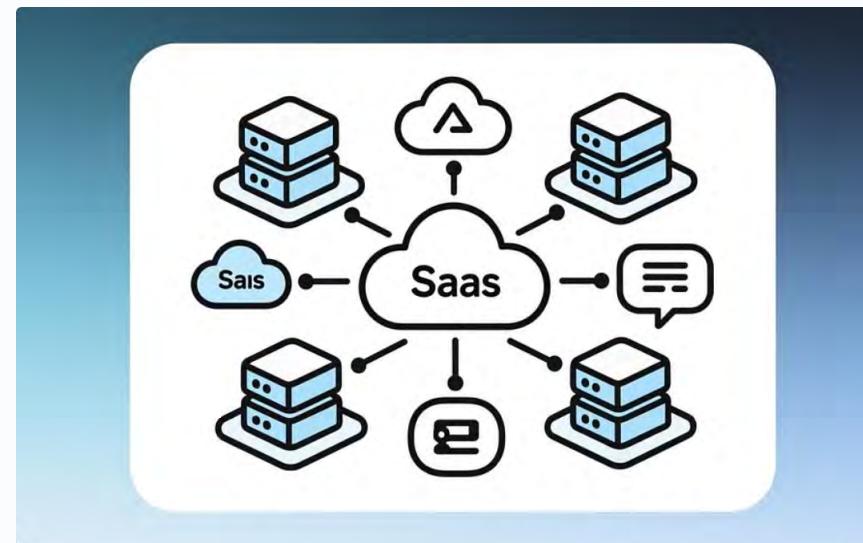
Senior IEEE Member

Cloud Architect



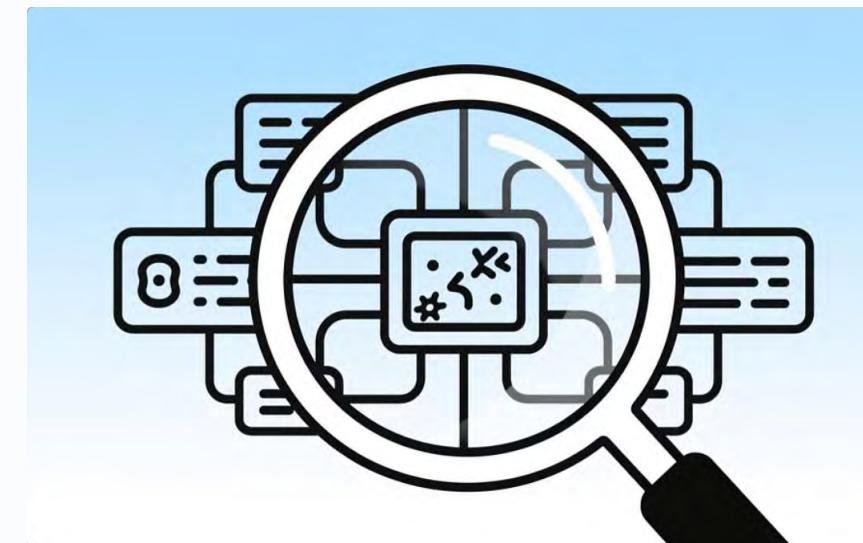
# The Evolving Challenge of Modern Enterprise Systems

Dynamic, Interconnected, and Rapidly Evolving



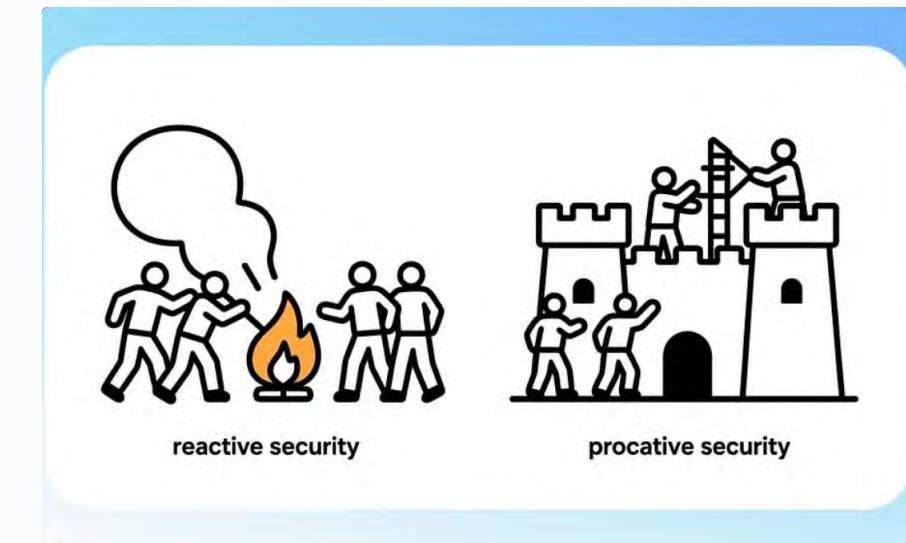
## Complex Systems

Modern enterprise systems are a complex web of cloud infrastructure, SaaS, APIs, and third-party integrations, forming a vast digital fabric.



## Hidden Vulnerabilities

Vulnerabilities lurk in subtle misconfigurations, identity sprawl, and supply chain weaknesses, often unseen by traditional security.



## Proactive Resilience

True resilience requires shifting from reactive 'firefighting' to proactive, foresighted security assurance.

# Why Traditional DevSecOps Isn't Enough

## Pipelines ≠ Protection

### Limited Scope

Pipeline-focused DevSecOps leaves critical gaps across SaaS platforms, identity and access management, and integration layers that exist outside traditional CI/CD workflows.

### Reactive Posture

Security becomes a downstream checkpoint focused on scanning and gating releases, rather than an upstream design principle that prevents issues before they manifest.

### Scattered Risk View

Without centralized risk visibility, organizations struggle to prioritize remediation efforts or understand their true security posture across distributed systems.

We must expand DevSecOps beyond infrastructure and pipelines to encompass the full ecosystem.

# The Shift to Risk-Driven DevSecOps

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## Identify Critical Assets

Understand key business value and the potential impact of failures.

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## Prioritize by Impact

Allocate security resources based on business impact and likelihood.

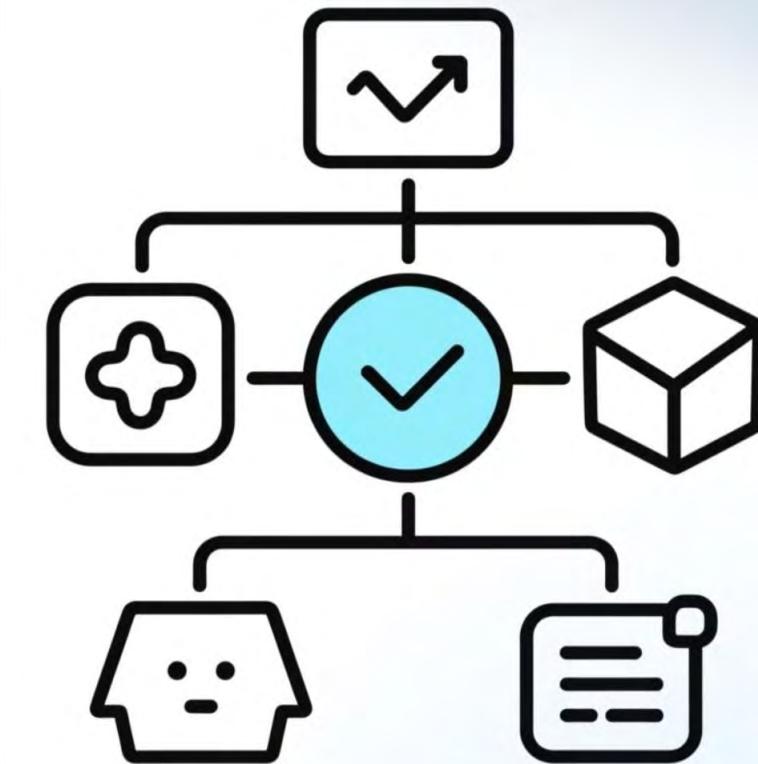
03

## Anchor Decisions in Risk

Use risk to guide engineering priorities, automation, and architecture.

- ❑ Risk-driven DevSecOps builds resilience by focusing efforts on protecting critical systems and data.

## Enterprise Risk



# Seeing the Whole Risk Landscape

## Map the Ecosystem, Not Just the Pipeline

Comprehensive visibility across your entire technology ecosystem is the foundation of resilience. You cannot protect what you cannot see.



### Cloud Misconfigurations

Storage buckets, network rules, encryption settings, and resource permissions across multi-cloud environments.



### SaaS & Third-Party Risk

External integrations, API connections, vendor access, and data-sharing relationships.



### Identity Surfaces

User permissions, service accounts, OAuth grants, and privilege escalation paths.



### Data Flows

Cross-system dependencies, data movement patterns, and integration touchpoints.

# Continuous Monitoring & Compliance as Practice

Detect Issues Before They Become Incidents



## Establish Baselines

Define guardrails for common failure points across cloud, SaaS, identity, and API configurations.



## Continuous Policy Checks

Automated validation runs constantly, catching drift and violations in real-time rather than during periodic audits.



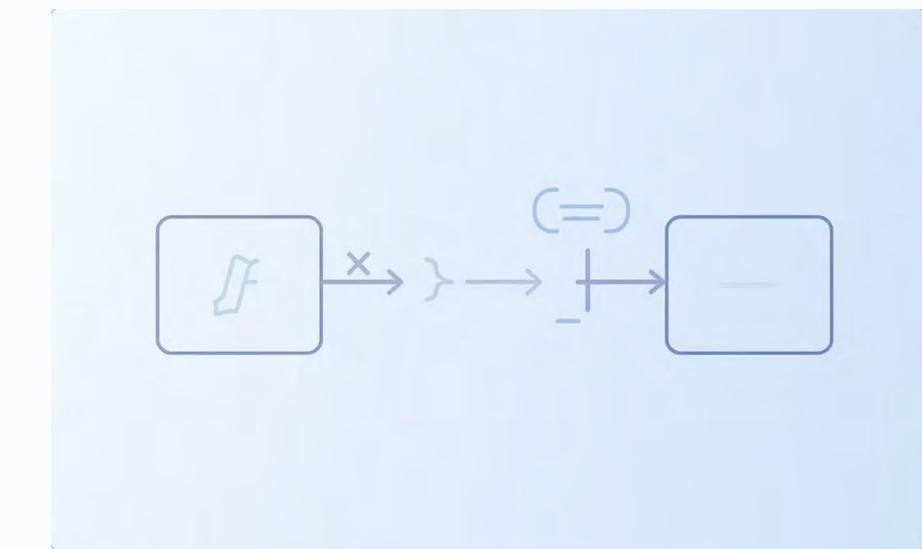
## Always-On Feedback

Treat compliance as a continuous feedback mechanism that informs engineering decisions and improves system design.

**Key insight:** Monitoring is not about deploying more tools—it's about establishing disciplined, continuous validation as a core operational practice.

# Embedding Resilience in CI/CD & Development

## Build Systems That Can Bend Without Breaking



### Automate Early Checks

Integrate security validation directly into development workflows to proactively identify and fix issues.

### Dependency Hygiene

Ensure supply chain integrity by consistently auditing and updating all third-party components.

### Strengthen Extensions

Fortify custom scripts and integration points with stringent security standards to eliminate common vulnerabilities.

Pipelines become resilience engines when practices enforce consistency and predictability across every deployment.

# Access, Governance, and Audit as Risk Controls

## Reduce Exposure Through Good Operational Hygiene



### Role-Based Access Control

Design RBAC roles that map to real job responsibilities, not generic templates. Regular reviews ensure permissions remain aligned with current duties and follow least-privilege principles.



### Conditional Access Standards

Implement contextual access policies as the default—considering device health, location, risk signals, and user behavior—not as special-case exceptions.



### Reliable Audit Trails

Maintain comprehensive, tamper-evident logs that support both accountability and organizational learning. Audit data becomes a strategic asset for improving security posture.

Governance and identity discipline are quiet superpowers in resilient systems—unglamorous but essential foundations for security at scale.

# Connecting DevSecOps to Business Risk

Speak the Language of Impact



## Translate Technical to Business Risk

Frame vulnerabilities and exposures in terms of potential business impact—revenue loss, compliance violations, reputation damage—not just technical severity scores.

## Align With Enterprise Frameworks

Integrate DevSecOps practices with existing enterprise risk management frameworks, board reporting, and strategic planning cycles.

## Show Progress Through Risk Metrics

Report using risk-reduction metrics that resonate with executive leadership—mean time to remediate critical exposures, attack surface reduction, control effectiveness.

# Making Systems Hard to Break: Actionable Resilience

## Resilience Is Built Through Practice, Not Tools



### Look Beyond Your Code

Quarterly SaaS security reviews. MFA-enforced access. Annual API penetration tests. Vet new partners within 2 weeks.



### Focus on Business Impact

Map technical issues to business impact. Remediate critical risks within 7 days (MTTR).



### Automate Security Steps

Integrate SAST/SCA into CI/CD, halt critical flaws. Policy as Code for 95% compliance. Configuration as Code for auto-fixes within 24 hours.



### Connect to Company Goals

Monthly risk meetings with leadership. Dashboards to show risk reduction & attack surface shrinkage.

- ❑ Automating, measuring, and collaborating builds resilient systems, aligning with business goals.

# Thank You!



## Thank You for Your Engagement

We appreciate your time and attention. This presentation aimed to provide valuable insights into building resilient systems through a risk-driven DevSecOps approach.



## Building Resilient Systems

By prioritizing business impact, automating security, and aligning efforts with company goals, we forge systems that are truly hard to break. This strategy drives continuous improvement and a proactive security posture.



## Your Questions, Our Discussion

We are now eager to hear your thoughts and questions. We look forward to a stimulating discussion on making systems hard to break!