
AWS
re:Invent
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SEC322

Transform builder velocity with security

Collin Pace

Security Principal TPM
AWS

Anya Khlobystina

Mgr, TPM Security
AWS

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Agenda

- Security needs of a modern organization
- What is a Guardian?
- Measuring success
- Keeping the community productive

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Security needs of a modern organization

- Reducing lead time: Wait time and the time required to actually complete the security review
- Create clarity: Predictable process guiding when and how to start a review; centralized security team needs operational knowledge of specific business aspects
- Establish connection: Allow people from both sides to partner during the review
- Match the security needs: 210+ services vs. one application security team

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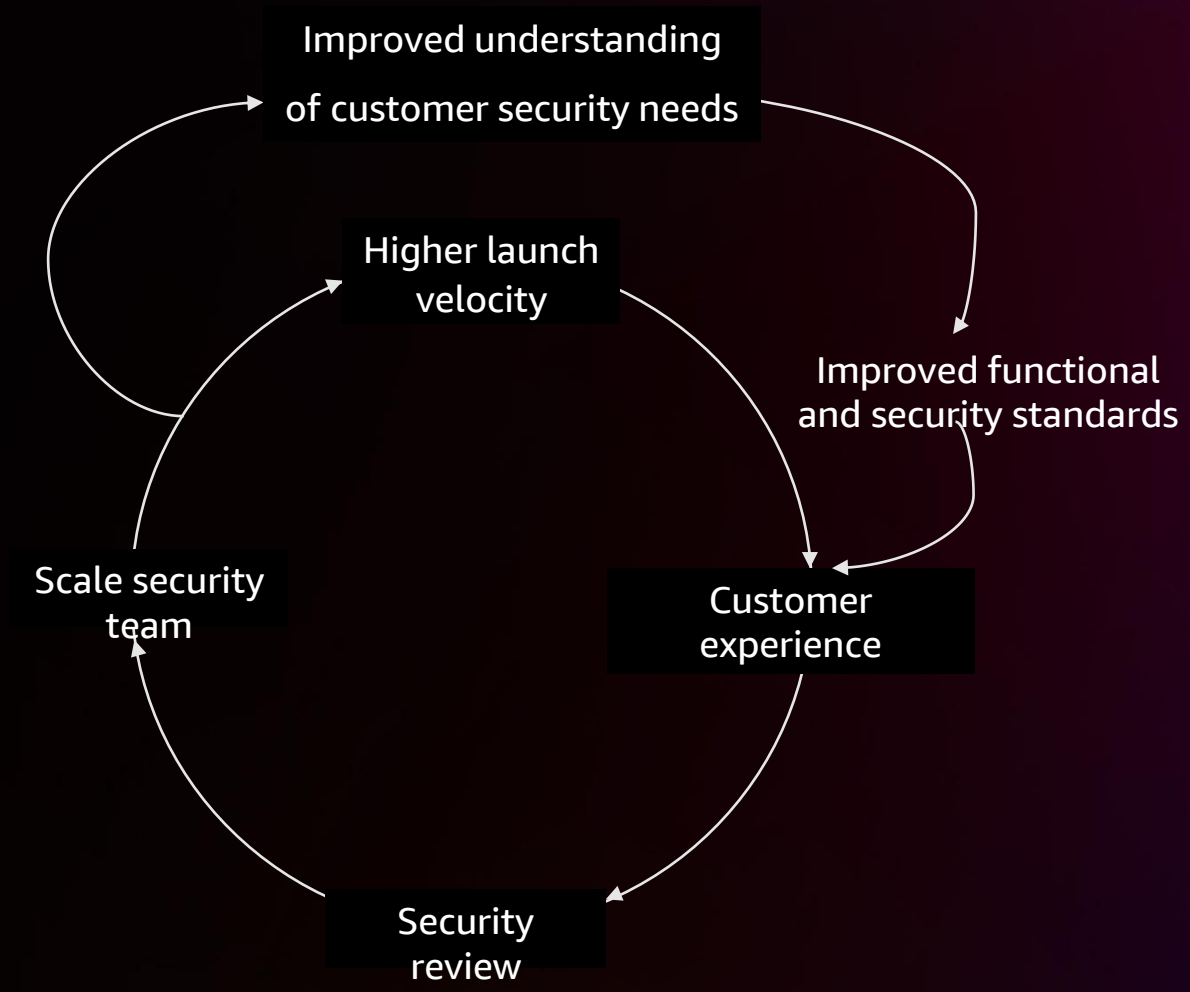
Addressing the needs

- Make a shift: from dominating entire security space to trust and verify
- Builder teams own the security of their applications
- Security mindfulness to be embedded in the team
- Establishing security flywheel

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Security flywheel



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Security Guardians 101

- Guardians improve security by empowering engineering teams to be informed security owners
- Guardians develop security competency, mechanisms, and ownership in addition to their regular jobs
- Guardians stay on their regular teams to allow them to be close to the code or content development process
- Results: The team reduces overall time to generate an approved security review and deliver secure quality code

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Security Guardians: Make it happen

- Confirm their role: Through a discussion with the security team
- Get buy-in: Leadership support is required to allow the community to prioritize the security function and drive it into the teams
- Define the ratio: Number of Guardians to the number of builders
- Give them a choice: The Guardians' motivation is a key component of their impact

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Guardians: Measuring success

- 29.7% decrease high findings, 18.58% decrease medium findings
- 39.1% (L) and 62.7% (XL) less time to complete a security review end to end
- Track the number of security reviews completed by a Guardian
- Track the quality of submissions, both overall and per individual Guardians
- Removing the burden from a central security team leads to reduction of blocked production deployments

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Security Guardians: ATTEMPt lifecycle

- **A** - Areas of focus: Application development, content, or both
- **T** - Track candidates: Allow people to nominate themselves
- **T** - Training: Per the defined scope
- **E** - Empower: Allow candidates to demonstrate their readiness via shadow and reverse-shadow process
- **M** - Measure: Metrics include lead time, average review time, and number of findings per review
- **Pt** - Professional triumph (for them): Embrace the professional development for Guardians and their team; this program will help all people succeed and will open new opportunities for Guardians

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Keeping the community productive

- Keeping the right number of Guardians
  - Enough requests to keep them engaged
  - Enough people to serve the requests

- Maintain skill level
  - Consistent knowledge sharing
  - Changes in scope may require additional education
  - Response to a low individual efficiency

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Summary

- Guardians can help you prevent blocked production deployment
- Motivation and personal interest is key to success
- Leadership support is required to get the right number of team members
- Homework
  1. Talk with your security team
  2. Run a pilot
  3. Get leadership support to enable your company to deliver faster

Happy building!

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Thank you!

Collin Pace
linkedin.com/in/collinpace/

Anya Khlobystina
linkedin.com/in/anya-khlobystina/



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