KinderSystems

How KinderSystems increased deployment frequency by 2,000% with Octopus Deploy

REQUIREMENTS

Reduce costs
Reduce stress
Automation

COMPANY

1 – 100
employees

INDUSTRY
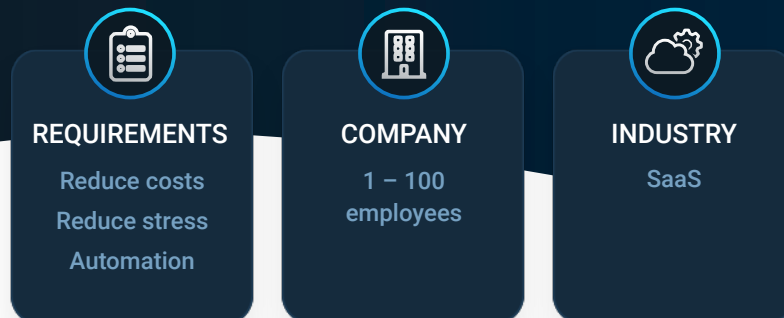
SaaS

About KinderSystems

KinderSystems is the leading US provider of subsidy management Software as a Service (SaaS) solutions to state agencies, Head Start programs, and child care providers.

Hundreds of agencies in the publicly funded child care sector use KinderSystems applications via the cloud and mobile devices to streamline their operations, ensure compliance with government regulations, and meet the needs of the families they serve.
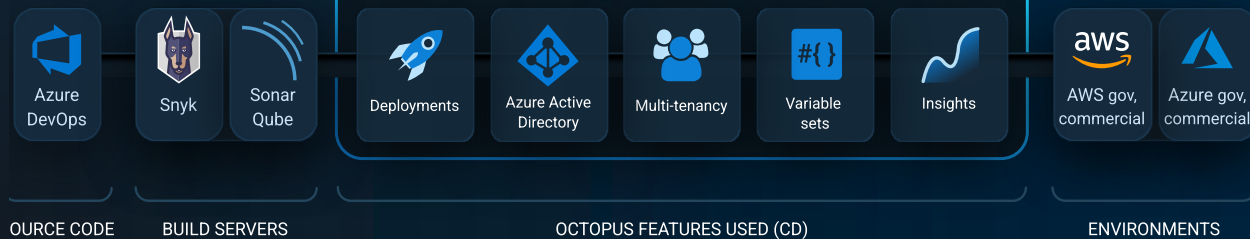
Challenges

KinderSystems needed to support cloud and on-premises deployments and reduce manual work

Complex deployments

KinderSystems works with organizations at different stages of their digital transformation journey. Many of KinderSystems' government and commercial customers have moved their tech stack to the cloud. This means deploying to various cloud environments, such as Microsoft Azure and AWS. However, some customers still operate mainframe systems or require hosting on their own platforms; so KinderSystems' ability to also deploy on-premises lets it meet customers where they are. KinderSystems also integrates its solution with customers' legacy systems, so deployments are often highly customized.

Pipeline

Octopus Deploy

| Azure DevOps | Snyk | Sonar Qube | Deployments | Azure Active Directory | Multi-tenancy | Variable sets | Insights | aws AWS gov, commercial | Azure gov, commercial |

OURCE CODE | BUILD SERVERS | OCTOPUS FEATURES USED (CD) | ENVIRONMENTS

Manual processes

When KinderSystems released new software, it could take up to 4 weeks to get all customers on the latest version. Software engineers worked for 2 or 3 hours every afternoon, upgrading a handful of sites at a time – manually updating databases, web apps, and reports, while also trying to perform smoke tests.

Slow speed-to-market

KinderSystems was releasing new features at high speeds, but its deployment bottleneck was delaying the release of these features to its customers.

Staff burnout

The team was under constant stress knowing that hot fixes could require staff to work a ton of hours, usually on weekends, just to deploy a simple fix.

Solution

Automating complex deployments

KinderSystems chose Octopus Deploy to automate its software deployment processes, meet the complex needs of its customers, and reduce the time to deploy software.

> **"Our DORA metrics have skyrocketed since we started using Octopus. Our deployment frequency has increased by 2,000% in the last four years, and it continues to improve with a 90% deployment frequency improvement in terms of now versus last year."**
>
> **Jorge Robledo,** Vice President of Operations at KinderSystems

Value

Saving time and money with rapid release cycles

Increased deployment frequency

Since the team at KinderSystems started using Octopus in early 2019 their deployment frequency has increased by 2,000%, peaking at 482 deployments in a single week. They expect this number to keep growing.

Shorter release cycles

KinderSystems dramatically shortened its release cycles by deploying to development, testing, pre-production, and production environments faster. The process is fully automated using a rich set of Octopus features, including variables and tenanted deployments.

Time savings

KinderSystems performs 100+ customer-specific deployments in 2 hours using Octopus. Deployments are pre-scheduled and run automatically, and Octopus notifies the KinderSystems team if there are failures.

> "With Octopus Deploy, we can now perform 100+ customer-specific deployments in only 2 hours, completely automated."
>
> **Jorge Robledo,** Vice President of Operations at KinderSystems

Lower cost to deploy

By using Octopus best practices and standardizing deployment processes, KinderSystems teams who are close to their customers can manage deployments. Helpdesk technicians, instead of developers, can execute the deployment process. This lets developers focus on what they do best – troubleshooting complex issues and coding new features.

Shared knowledge

Another benefit of using Octopus was moving the knowledge held by only a few team members into a larger shared space. This provides peace of mind that employee absence won't jeopardize on-time delivery. The broader team fully understands the steps and dependencies for a successful deployment and helps when needed.

> **"By bringing consistency to our deployment process, we were able to lower our operational costs."**
>
> **Jorge Robledo,** Vice President of Operations at KinderSystems

Continuous process improvement

KinderSystems' leadership team strongly supports DevOps automation. They understand that if they want to grow, they need to apply automation in areas beyond just deployments. KinderSystems is now bringing testing automation into the mix, with Octopus playing an integral role.

> **"Octopus enables us to improve our continuous delivery without incurring additional risks."**
>
> **Jorge Robledo,** Vice President of Operations at KinderSystems

Fulfilling company mission

Automating complex deployment processes lets the team at KinderSystems use their talents to ensure all players in the publicly funded child care ecosystem have the software systems they need to deliver high quality child care to the families and children they serve.

Learn how Octopus can accelerate your deployments at **octopus.com**

Octopus Deploy