

Platform.sh Drupalcon Ireland Showcase Submission

British Council Multi-site to Containers

Platform.sh changes everything

Summary of Showcase

Presenters

Nick Morgalla – Head of Operations, British Council

Mike Carter – Technical Director, Ixis

Robert Douglass – VP Customer Experience, Platform.sh

Kieron Sambrook-Smith – Chief Commercial Officer, Platform.sh

Summary of Showcase

130 site multi-site migration to container based PaaS migration

The organisation

- British Council developing a wider knowledge of the UK and the English language, improving cultural and educational understanding, relationships and co-operation between the UK and countries around the world.
- 120 multilingual sites live across 110 countries, driving and supporting a multi-million pound operation
- Solas is the D7 corporate CMS, integrating with many other products, internal developments and cloud based services

Their problems

- New feature deployment painstakingly slow impacting 1000 content editors, customers and overall business
- Fierce competition requires we launch new sites faster, bring new services/products to market sooner, achieve CD, reduce management overhead and become more efficient by streamlining these processes
- Also needed to improve live performance, improve reliability and speed (page load times), and strengthen security

The solution

- Need to adopt container based hosting plus strong integration with development process and testing tools
- Docker DIY or move to cloud hosting and support using PaaS model
- Use UK Government Procurement Framework G-Cloud to do PaaS search and procure Platform.sh
- Complex multi-team project with hundreds of stakeholders, delivered with mix of agile/waterfall methodologies

Summary of Showcase

Regime change achieved in 9 months - start to finish

The result

- Massive improvements to the deploy lifecycle process, reducing end-user down-time, enabling frequent deploys
- Greater capacity via parallel development, whilst improving quality of deployed code
- Overall improvement in product and service quality, uptime and reliability, 30-40% reduction in page load times globally
- Weekly deploys taking several hours to daily deploys taking less than 30 mins across entire global estate
- Improved testing prevents bugs making it into production
- Vendor service reviews no longer focus on resolving ongoing problems, just improvements
- Users reporting significant improvements in performance, and especially time taken to publish content changes
- Multi-site, but in Platform.sh containers means deployments to all sites now independent of each other. Countries no longer bound together.