

CASE STUDY: AGILE DEVELOPMENT SERVICES



BACKGROUND

To create healthy eating habits and improve overall diet, the USDA operates the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP), a federally assisted program that provides elementary students across the U.S. with free fresh fruits and vegetables during the school day. Schools are able to use their USDA food entitlement dollars to buy the fresh produce. Currently serving 46 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and Guam, schools receive more than \$100 million worth of produce each school year.

SITUATION

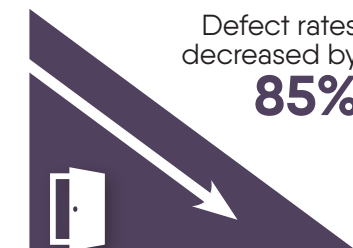
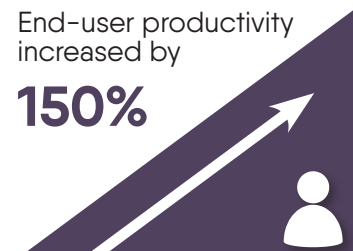
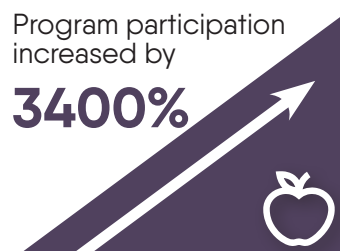
The USDA website used by the public schools to obtain the fresh produce was extremely slow and poorly designed, and built on an inefficient infrastructure. The site also suffered from many production issues, including poor-quality data and a broken order work flow; frustration was high among the schools who used the site.

SOLUTION

ECCO Select's team within the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service re-built the site on a new platform, a robust, virtualized and FEDRAMP-certified cloud provider. By using development best practices – including the Agile method and release management techniques – the team redesigned the system architecture over two years to provide a stable and more friendly user experience.

RESULT

In addition to improving the order process, the team simplified the funds tracking component of the system and encouraged more small produce growers and distribution companies to become involved with the program. Key results of the project:



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