As federal agencies transition from the “Cloud First” to the “Cloud Smart” approach, it is evident that federal IT executives are inclining more toward capitalizing on cloud adoption and its underlining benefits. Beyond just reduced IT infrastructure and operating costs, the benefits of increased flexibility, affordability and yes, even security, have placed cloud strategies and digital transformation at the center of mission-critical services. Infrastructure modernization has become crucial for governments seeking to serve citizens in the digital era. To this end, federal government agencies are readily undergoing digital transformations to take advantage of the latest technologies that enable them to boost their digital journey, power agility, and democratize innovation.

Be that as it may, in the public sector, cloud adoption and digital transformation initiatives are still viewed through the lens of caution and reservation, driven in large part by the sensitivity around constituent data at the disposal of government agencies. While there is no denying that cloud computing has evolved over time, and digital transformation strategies have matured, data integrity and cybersecurity continue to be a pressing concern for government agencies. As such, with the rise of data breaches, the need for government agencies to partner with The Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP)-certified vendors is now more than ever.

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This is where, Peniel Solutions, LLC a company that provides a full range of cloud solutions and services, is in a class by itself. To support the Federal Cloud Smart Initiative and ensure utmost data security, Peniel Solutions (PSL) is offering robust cloud data management applications and storage services exclusively to the U.S. government, operating primarily on FedRAMP-certified Amazon GovCloud. An AWS recognized public partner and reseller, PSL is a leading solution government contractor (GovCon) provider of Digital Transformation Services, DevSecOps (Development, Security, and Operations), supported by an extensive portfolio of cloud services. Equipping clients with operational support, PSL assists them to move specific services from federal data centers to the FedRAMP authorized cloud and maintain them there. PSL is an Amazon Web Services (AWS) Partner with the technical background, operations and advisory capabilities to support Federal agencies’ transition to the cloud. PSL also provides the integration, operations, maintenance and support to customers on the global self-service along with network, compute, storage database, application and deployment & administration services.

Understanding the Power of AWS
PSL leverages novel AWS tools, such as AWS Quick Starts and AWS Inspector, and incorporates them in its cloud solutions to help clients streamline and automate the processes of reporting data and scanning security vulnerabilities. When it comes to digital transformations, it all starts with data thinking—the intelligent harnessing and consumption of data. In this end, PSL largely focuses on three “Vs” (volumes of successful digital transformation)— ingestion, integration, and insights. “We believe AWS is perfectly positioned to help curate and deliver the data for this process,” says James E. McGriff, President/CEO of Peniel Solutions. To assist government agencies in facilitating digital transformation, McGriff and his team place quality data at the center of their solutions. “We look at the best ways to consume data, following which we ensure that the data is integrated in an ideal manner. For instance, if there are five sources of data, we determine if there is an authoritative source that we could all agree on, or if we should consider a percentage of all the five sources or even a subset of them for integration in the best possible way. To get to the most accurate decision, we run multiple algorithms and evaluate the quality source of the data,” explains McGriff. Once the data is integrated, the PSL team focuses on optimizing it and gleaning meaningful insights from it through data analytics, machine learning, or artificial intelligence.

Case in point: by working in close collaboration with The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), PSL is equipping the HUD’s 232 Loan program with AI-driven solutions to make proactive decisions, predict future expenditures, identify potential risks to minimize the participation of bad actors and lower their risk with backing poor loans. McGriff remarks, “The data that we are collecting over time will help them improve the profile in both of those areas.”

Predominantly catering to the public sector, PSL specializes at the federal level while also delivering services at the state and local level with multiple government vehicles. What distinguishes PSL from other vendors in the market is that it is not just an AWS-authorized vendor but also a reseller, which enables the company to provide its clients with comprehensive solutions without having them to partner with two different vendors. In addition, PSL is an AWS recognized public partner with authorized contract vehicles approved by AWS. McGriff further mentions that for public sector organizations, connecting and delivering information securely to citizens through different social avenues, web portal interactions, or mobile applications continues to present a significant challenge. Besides, with a reservoir of sensitive private and public data, maintaining and ensuring coverage with federal and state laws, such as PII, that govern the exchange of information can be particularly daunting for government agencies. PSL, operating on the FedRAMP certified GovCloud, helps clients address the challenge with top-tier security solutions that AWS brings to the table. “We are able to connect the commercial and government sectors in a very secure manner while delivering the confidence that the government and citizens require to operate in the cyberpace,” McGriff asserts.

When it comes to cutting the clutter and navigating through the complexities involved in government transactions, PSL’s chief objective is to take the randomness out of manual processes via secure automation and allow clients to concentrate on more important issues. Elaborating on the aspect of security tied to automation, McGriff goes on to mention the inherent challenges of delivering high-quality software codes, which comprise static and dynamic code. He stresses that one of the major issues that slows down the process in the scanning of security loopholes before introducing a static code into a dynamic environment. The process further entails fixing the vulnerabilities and then reading the scan to ensure the issues have been mitigated. To address this concern, PSL fosters a community of high skill developers who address the same vulnerabilities. Thereafter, the company selects the top 10 percent of the solutions provided by the team, which becomes the preferable way to address a particular vulnerability. As such, with the help of its high-performance team of software developers, PSL has helped develop in an ingenious solution—VioFixer—that automatically runs, identifies, as well as fixes security code violations in the static code without diverting developers away from their core tasks. The benefits of automating the process are obvious: first off, it takes the

The fact that we have been thriving, and not just surviving all this time is a testimony to the service that we deliver

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