DATA COMMONS RELIES ON PYTHIAN DEVOPS EXPERTISE TO HELP CONSUMERS MAKE BETTER HEALTHCARE DECISIONS

Different people seek healthcare information for different reasons. Researchers, analysts, policy makers, healthcare providers, and the general public need data about healthcare professionals, such as demographics, credentials, education, practice specialty, and more. But there are many owners and systems of record for these datasets, and until now there was no unified view.

Data Commons is changing this model. They’re focused on improving collaboration and quality of care by helping end users make better, more informed decisions in a world where value is created through exponentially increasing amounts of data.

BUSINESS NEED
Data Commons licensed a working prototype of the system they envisioned, but the prototype needed restructuring to scale. There were also several other factors that impeded their progress: a lack of automated testing, disparate and manually configured environments, labor-intensive steps in all processes, no controlled release processes, and no expert DBA or 24/7 operations support.

After deciding that a cloud-based platform was the best solution, they chose Amazon Web Services for its wide range of capabilities, high scalability, and cost-effectiveness. But Data Commons still needed help building and configuring the cloud infrastructure and creating a development lifecycle that would provide a strong foundation for their evolving requirements.
SOLUTION
Data Commons evaluated several service providers, but were immediately impressed with Pythian’s high level of service and knowledge. From their initial discussions, Pythian helped Data Commons better understand how to configure and organize their infrastructure and integrate the functionalities they wanted. Pythian also suggested that Data Commons integrate DevOps into their strategy to help streamline the entire process, flag issues earlier, and launch faster.

“Pythian’s recommendations were right on the ball,” said Leonard Armstrong, Director of Information Technology. “Their DevOps experts removed many roadblocks that could have delayed our launch. Continuous integration, application performance monitoring, and log monitoring became very critical for us, and they weren’t in my original plan.”

Pythian kicked off the DevOps process by auditing all aspects of Data Commons’ software development and operations life cycle. They then set targets to speed up the development and offered suggestions for orchestrating the launch. The team also addressed several major pain points that could have delayed the launch, such as diagnosing and solving security issues.

Pythian provided their expertise at every step. Aligning operations and development ensured continuous interaction so that both infrastructure and applications were constantly assessed. This streamlined model improved the overall process and resulted in a faster, more efficient, and secure deployment. To complete the process, Data Commons added 24/7 support for optimal operational efficiency.

RESULT
Today, Data Commons is poised to significantly impact the way healthcare information is obtained and shared. Their fully scalable, public-cloud infrastructure, combined with a continuous integration and deployment pipeline, regular database optimization, and healthcare-grade security, supports new platforms as their business grows and ensures data is available to anyone, any time.

“The most impressive thing about Pythian is the level of talent they bring. Talent isn’t scalable. You either have it or you don’t,” said Armstrong. “Being responsive and cooperative—understanding and knowing how to speak to one’s audience—isn’t an easy skill in this business. But Pythian has it.”