



The Advantages of a SaaS-Based Application Security Solution

Companies across the globe are increasingly shifting to a software-as-a-service (SaaS) model, rather than on-premises offerings, when purchasing technology solutions. In fact, Gartner reports that SaaS revenue grew a whopping 135 percent between 2015 and 2018. (Source: Gartner, "Market Trends: The Transformative Impact of SaaS on the Software Market," 2018).

More than 13 years ago, Veracode pioneered the AppSec industry with a SaaS-based solution. We recognized the need

for application security, and saw SaaS and the cloud as the only way to address the problem and scale the solution. In the end, this allows our customers to focus on running a successful application security program, rather than being the system administrator for a scanning solution.

Below we outline the various advantages of a SaaS-based application security program vs. on-premises.

ADVANTAGE: No deployment

How long does it take you to provision a server?

With a SaaS-based application security solution, you start scanning on day one, without setting up any infrastructure or adding costly hardware to your IT environment.

With an on-premises solution, you have to deploy it yourself. You have to scope the program, figure out how many machines you need to provision, evaluate whether to use virtual machines or hardware, and then set up the infrastructure. Once you set up the servers, you have to install the software and configure the systems. For many organizations, it can take up to 60 days to provision a server.

ADVANTAGE: No maintenance

Who takes care of operating system and database updates?

With a SaaS-based application security solution, you don't worry about keeping scanners up to date and optimized, the vendor does.

Once you set up an on-premises offering, you have to keep the software patched and hardware up to date in order to get the most out of the solution.



ADVANTAGE: No operational issues

Who do you call if your scanning infrastructure goes down?

A SaaS vendor ensures the system is running properly; if there are issues, the vendor will take care of it, often before you are even aware of the problem.

With an on-premises solution, you are responsible for troubleshooting servers or application scans.

ADVANTAGE: Better ability to budget

How much do you expect scan volume to go up in your organization as developers release more often? How does that impact your budget?

With a SaaS-based solution, your subscription includes all of the operational cost, including compute power and operational maintenance.

It's very hard to estimate the total cost of an on-premises solution because you assume so much of the operational risk. If you host yourself, you bear the cost of having to scale up the infrastructure.

The same is true if you pay the on-premises vendor for a fixed number of hosted servers and engines. Either way, operational cost is unpredictable and added on top.

ADVANTAGE: More accurate results

Will you have to tune your scanner for each application to reduce the false-positive rate?

With SaaS-based AppSec, developers and security professionals can easily mark a finding as a false positive, meaning low false-positive rates, without self-tuning.

On-premises vendors are limited to testing their false-positive rate with a small number of test apps in a lab. You would need to file support tickets for false positives, which is a time-consuming step most developers are unlikely to take. This is why on-premises applications have a higher false-positive rate, and why on-premises users need to tune the scanner for each application to reduce the false-positive rate.

ADVANTAGE: No cost for high availability

What have you budgeted for redundant systems and load balancers to ensure high availability?

SaaS-based solutions build in high-availability so you get redundant systems for no additional cost.

With on-premises offerings, if you want to have this advantage, it will increase your cost exponentially because you will need to rebuild redundant systems for each deployment. You'll have to purchase more hardware, licenses, and load balancers to keep everything running in tandem, and then ensure they all stay up and running.

ADVANTAGE: Easily manage scan spikes

What happens when you need to scale your program?

It's hard to predict how much you'll be scanning, and scan volume comes in spikes. With a SaaS-based AppSec solution, you don't need to plan for scan spikes, or take any action. The solution is elastic, and will auto-scale to meet demand.

With an on-premises solution, you'll have to plan for peak capacity and continuously pay for it. If you plan too much capacity, you have too much idle hardware and it becomes expensive; plan too little, and your developers will wait as their scans are queued. When your program grows, you'll have to add more scan engines, requiring you to buy new hardware and more licenses, configure them, and then begin scanning.



Contact us to get more details on our SaaS-based application security solution.

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