Making the Internet Safer: Curity Utilizes Azul Platform Core to Power Its Java-based Identity Server

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Travis Spencer, CEO

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About Curity

An epic shift is underway in the world of Java which has forced thousands of companies to make a choice: stay with Oracle or switch? It's a critical choice because it greatly impacts both the cost and performance of any company's Java infrastructure.

Today, the Curity Identity Server is the most technically complete OAuth and OpenID Connect server, and is used to secure millions of users' access to web and mobile apps. Customers across Europe and the US utilize Curity's product to protect their APIs and microservices.

A Standards-based, Easy-to-implement Security Solution

To offer a ready-made solution where the client is in full control of their data and can manage user identities without writing custom code, Curity believed from the beginning that the best approach would be to leverage open standards and deliver a product that facilitates an easy implementation. This reduces pressure on customers' development and operational teams, so they can focus on providing value with confidence that their digital services will be safe at any scale.

"What our customers want is an off-the-shelf product that can help them solve their security challenges and that can run on any computer, any cloud," explains Travis Spencer, CEO of Curity.

"We decided to build this using Java and Kotlin after looking at various other languages, including Python and Go,"

Spencer recalls. "Python wasn't selected because its lack of type safety would lead to hard-to-find runtime errors; Go was not selected due to its lack of language features, such as generics, and its smaller ecosystem."



One JDK to Support Them All

In the past, Curity and its customers used the free Oracle Java SE updates. In 2018, Oracle changed its licensing model, support terms, and release cycles for Java and its JVM (Java Virtual Machine). After six months of free security patches, customers would need a support agreement with Oracle to continue receiving security updates. This churning situation led Curity to seek a solution that would provide more continuity.

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"We needed to OEM Java to alleviate our customers' concerns about the changes; we needed one supported, secure JDK, so our technology choices wouldn't become our customers' problems," says Spencer. "We needed a robust option from a trusted vendor that fit our software development lifecycle. In talking with Azul, the trust came quickly, and was continually reinforced by the excellent support we received."

"Azul gives us peace of mind"

"I've become a raving fan of Azul in no small part because of the support we get," says Spencer. "We've opened half a dozen cases and have gotten great help each time. The cases we open are really complicated ones -- things like TLS 1.3 support, ChaCha20-Poly1305 support, RSA-PSS support, HSM fixes - tricky stuff, yet we always get great answers and help in workable timeframes. It feels really good to get the help we need from knowledgeable people that aim to please."

"We could get Java for free, so it's not for economic reasons that we use Azul Platform Core," Spencer quips. "Azul gives us peace of mind. Our customers need an OS; that's it. Everything on top of that comes from us. They don't have to worry about anything that's in our delivery. They don't even need to know that it includes Java. In this way, the peace of mind we get from Azul is transferred to our customers. This helps us all focus on the more important things we're doing to make the internet safer. This is the value we get from Azul!"