

4 ways to prepare for automated Policy as Code

Managing compliance policies and security risks is essential, but it creates additional responsibilities for development and operations roles. Automating Policy as Code (PaC) can help alleviate some of that burden. Here are 4 ways you can prepare to implement automated PaC operations.

1 Evaluate your needs

As the complexity and scale of multicloud environments increases, mission-critical automation has come forward as a way to operate with speed, consistency, and accuracy. Your diverse environment now includes complex artificial intelligence (AI) applications and this makes automation even more essential to keeping pace while meeting compliance guidelines.

To prepare for automated PaC operations, it is important to evaluate your current automation journey and identify additional areas to automate. This step is about asking the right questions, such as:

- ▶ Are there opportunities to extend existing automation use cases, either in quantity or depth?
- ▶ Which manual and routine tasks represent time-consuming work for your team(s)?
- ▶ Are there opportunities to automate workflows across technical domains?
- ▶ Do you have a comprehensive understanding of what is currently operating in your cloud environments?

2 Consider workflow automation

Now that you understand where specific opportunities exist to implement or extend automation, you can start to think more holistically about automating new use case areas across the life cycle or technical domains. Here are some questions to consider to help you adopt an automation-first mindset:

- ▶ What is slowing down innovation for developers? Could self-service automation and policy-driven guardrails help them to deliver faster?
- ▶ Which cross-team collaboration points require a lot of time and coordination? Could an automated process help?
- ▶ Can you automate a defined process, such as network and cloud workflows, to expedite actions?
- ▶ Which operational workflows could benefit from event-driven automation to create immediate responses to conditions?

3 Build automated compliance into your technology stack

Building automated compliance checks into your environment increases the consistency, control, accuracy, and resiliency of your operations and infrastructure.

Automation can be applied to compliance checks across your development, test, and production environments. This can reduce friction and boost confidence in your operations. Here are some example use cases:

- ▶ Automatically evaluate automation playbooks or event-driven rulebooks to ensure they are in compliance before they run.
- ▶ Use event-driven automation to address areas that are out of compliance, such as security policies.
- ▶ Automate vendor-specific compliance best practices.
- ▶ Automatically generate audit reports or health checks to understand potential exposures.

4 Implement automated Policy as Code

Now you are ready to extend compliance or other automation scenarios by using a single source of truth. An “as code” model based on single sources of truth provides a great foundation for automated PaC.

Automation projects, including policy and compliance processes, use sources of truth to ensure that only a single version of operating parameters is applied to your environment. Each time these automation jobs are executed, you can be assured that they are consistently aligned in an automated PaC model. Consider these examples:

- ▶ Align firewall port policies using a single source of truth to specify which ports are to be used or avoided.
- ▶ Manage cloud costs by prohibiting larger instances without approval. Sizing can be adjusted in the source of truth as application needs change.
- ▶ Enforce certain access controls for new application or database deployments.
- ▶ Apply a new network router parameter globally to meet new security recommendations.

Learn more

Explore [this page](#) to learn more about the benefits of automating PaC.

Watch a webinar

Watch the [Automating Policy as Code webinar](#) to discover how to use Red Hat® Ansible® Automation Platform to implement automated PaC operations.



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