Waterford.org saves three months of dev time and increases application security by choosing FusionAuth

Waterford.org needed a reliable auth solution that could handle their unique standards needs and scale with their growing user base

THE CHALLENGE

Waterford.org is an early learning and education nonprofit which features an adaptive software platform that focuses on improving literacy in the classroom and in the home for children ages prek-2nd.

Waterford.org was in the process of building a completely new product that required a platform redesign. The company previously had an in-house auth system and was concerned about security and staying up to date with the latest patches and updates. Wanting to focus on the organization's mission, Waterford.org decided to offload their authentication and authorization needs to improve security and reduce ongoing maintenance.

As their back-to-school deadline was quickly approaching, Waterford.org needed a solution that was quick and easy to set up, cost effective, and fully customizable.

THE SOLUTION

FusionAuth's standards compliance, licensing model, and direct support ultimately drove Waterford.org to choose FusionAuth over Auth0, Keycloak, and AWS Cognito. The easy implementation, multi-tenant support, and API access allowed Waterford.org to provide new features for account management and enhanced security.

During their FusionAuth implementation, Waterford.org ran into issues with database queries and performance. The FusionAuth team quickly addressed the root cause and provided the right information Waterford.org needed to resolve the problem. Since then, the Waterford.org team has been extremely impressed with FusionAuth's reliability.

"Once we got FusionAuth set up and clustered in the Amazon environment, we really haven't had too many issues. It just works!"

-Scott Wood, Principal Architect, Waterford.org

Waterford.org

Industry - EdTech

Challenges
- Wanted to offload auth so they could focus on their core organizational mission
- Needed a solution that was quick and easy to set up, cost effective, and fully customizable

Solution
- Utilized FusionAuth's flexible hosting options, service support, and standards compliance
- Customized the authentication experience for every user with FusionAuth's multi-tenant capabilities

Results
- Decreased implementation time by 67%
- Offloaded auth related maintenance and saw ongoing savings and increased security
- Decreased account management support needs

Waterford.org was most concerned about their unique compliance needs as well as keeping up with their rapidly growing user base. Because of FusionAuth's OpenID Connect compatibility, Waterford.org was able to customize FusionAuth to be LTI compliant. LTI stands for Learning Tools Interoperability and is a common education specification. Additionally, they've scaled to hundreds of thousands of users without any issues.

Because teachers and students have different login requirements, Waterford.org was able to separate each user into tenants. This allowed the nonprofit to set suitable password rules and enable appropriate login features such as multi-factor authentication and single sign on.

"FusionAuth allowed Waterford.org to immediately provide new features for account management and enhanced security while decreasing password reset support incidents."

-Scott Wood, Principal Architect, Waterford.org

"FusionAuth was key to our success in launching Waterford Reading Academy on schedule to 200+ partners with a combined total of over 200k students. We securely support both on-site and remote learning opportunities. We decreased our implementation time from an estimate of three months. It was four weeks weeks from prototype to production."

Scott Wood, Principal Architect, Waterford.org

THE RESULTS

Waterford.org was able to hit their back-to-school deadline by implementing FusionAuth in four weeks. Had Waterford.org decided to go with another solution, the team estimates that it would have taken two to three months of developer time writing and testing code to meet their needs.

Today, Waterford.org has over 200 thousand users both in the cloud and on-premise. By replacing their home grown solution with FusionAuth, they're able to focus on their mission: delivering excellence and equity for all learners. More specifically, they can build more features while relying on FusionAuth to consistently improve their application's security.

About Waterford

Waterford.org seeks to blend the best aspects of learning science, mentoring relationships, and innovative technologies to form community, school, and home programs that deliver excellence and equity for all learners. Learn more at: https://www.waterford.org/

About FusionAuth

FusionAuth was designed and built by security and identity experts with over 50 combined years experience developing software for Fortune 500 companies. It installs in minutes and delivers Customer Identity and Access Management including login, registration, SSO, MFA, emails, localization, reporting and powerful user management features. FusionAuth has been battle-tested in high-volume industries from finance to gaming and deployed on servers around the globe. Learn more at: https://www.fusionauth.io