

FASTLY

ENABLING INNOVATION AND SECURITY WITHIN THE DEVELOPER JOURNEY

SUMMARY

Enterprise IT professionals face daunting challenges in the highly disaggregated environment of today's IT infrastructures. The desire to manage this complexity often leads to the prescriptive use of tech stacks and programming tools pinned to specific public-cloud and on-premises deployments. Unfortunately, developer efficiency and innovation can be stifled due to this approach. Furthermore, the need to ensure the highest levels of secure code can often lead to less time spent empowering developers to deliver innovative applications and services.

When it comes to supporting developer operations, organizations must strike a balance that enables both innovation and security. Simply embracing CI/CD pipelines is not enough, as seen in recent operational stumbles by organizations that have triggered widespread IT outages. Automation also plays an important role, as does the use of flexible coding tools and programmable networking architectures.

Moor Insights & Strategy believes that Fastly is well positioned to deliver a platform that enables a developer journey that is both innovative and secure. The company has created a compelling vision that supports developers, architecting a powerful platform that has been proven over fifteen years and providing extensive developer resources. The software-defined, open, and programmable API-enriched architecture supports interface flexibility, while a high degree of automation facilitates intelligent traffic routing and hardened security.

UNLOCKING EXCEPTIONAL DEVELOPER EXPERIENCES

Fastly has created a vision for providing exceptional developer experiences and, in the process, made the Internet a better place for IT service consumption. The company could monetize many of its features individually but offers most of them within its core platform. Three capabilities stand out as noteworthy: developer operational control, content caching, and network observability.

Fastly enables enhanced DevOps productivity by offering real-time granular control over configuration changes. To this end, Fastly provides the capability for developers to

integrate into any tech stack and toolset, giving them the freedom to use what makes them most productive. The benefits to developers are faster iteration and improved service reliability. From a content-caching perspective, the company's platform provides the flexibility to both broadly and surgically manage content changes dynamically within CI/CD pipelines through a fully configurable content delivery network service. This facilitates fast and efficient content and configuration changes, including event-driven scenarios. Meanwhile, end-to-end real-time network observability supports over 200 Fastly metrics designed to speed development cycles, improve code quality, and ensure the highest levels of security. Additionally, Fastly's real-time visibility into traffic flow, performance, and troubleshooting integrates easily into existing data pipelines; this gives developers flexibility and frees up their time to focus on application creativity.

MI&S believes that Fastly's platform offers exceptional and flexible DevOps capabilities in the areas just described. Placing this functionality at the network edge, where data is created with a proven CDN platform, provides high degrees of network performance, resiliency, and availability—ultimately unlocking new levels of innovation.

WHY FASTLY

Fastly provides a developer-friendly, secure, and highly scalable architectural design. Scalability is achieved through the company's contribution to both industry standards and open source projects, as well as an innovative runtime capability. This allows Fastly to remain agnostic toward tech stacks, configuration management tools, and workflows, facilitating a high degree of flexibility and agility for developers.

Furthermore, Fastly Compute provides a serverless compute environment that extends automation and programmability to the network edge, allowing developers to address latency-sensitive use cases. In adopting the WebAssembly open source platform, Fastly supports complex coding through popular containerization solutions such as Kubernetes and many popular languages, including Rust, JavaScript, and more. The company also integrates a purpose-built compiler that improves performance up to a staggering 100x relative to other CDN offerings. This allows developers to spend more time innovating rather than managing to guardrails. The value is even more significant given that this eliminates friction and costly system workarounds. As a result, developers can code the way they want to with any toolset—a frictionless developer experience that does not compromise speed and scale.

Organizations continue to be bombarded by cyberthreats that are made even worse by the ever-increasing sophistication of bad actors. To address these challenges, Fastly

adheres to a security-first mentality, providing a compute architecture that natively integrates security controls to facilitate secure request calls that leverage the power of microservices. MI&S believes that Fastly is well ahead of the current Secure by Design framework by a decade or more, given that it has demonstrated proactive defenses against cyberattacks running at the network edge well before the launch of the initiative.

RICH DEVELOPER RESOURCES

Fastly provides a broad and deep set of developer resources that facilitate high efficiency, productivity, and innovation. They include:

- The [Fastly Documentation and Dev Hub](#), which features guides, reference material, product documentation, and other resources that facilitate developer productivity.
- The [Fastly Community](#), which allows developers to share best practices and accelerate time-to-innovation.
- Fastly [Fiddle](#) and [Glitch](#) resources that provide developers the flexibility of using standard web browsers to code without the need for setup or use of complex test environments.

GOOD STUFF DELIVERED BY FASTLY

For an example of Fastly at work, consider Stuff, an independent online news media outlet based in New Zealand. Prior to using Fastly, Stuff's legacy CDN solution provider required developers to manually route change requests, which slowed deployment time—without any guarantee that changes would be implemented correctly.

[Today, Stuff leverages many of Fastly's highly automated services to reimagine its DevOps workflows.](#) Fastly Compute provides a preproduction staging environment to quickly test and deliver innovations that keep Stuff users engaged with its content. From a content delivery perspective, Fastly's API-centric architecture allows Stuff developers to use an infrastructure-as-code approach that allows them to iterate new features and roll back misconfigurations quickly. Finally, to stay one step ahead of security threats, Stuff uses Fastly's Managed Security Service for continuous monitoring and threat hunting. When Stuff identifies suspicious traffic, it can hand it off to Fastly for investigation, allowing developers to move projects forward.

The partnership between Stuff and Fastly is a powerful example of how a flexible and automated edge-enabled compute, delivery, and security services platform can unlock higher levels of developer agility, innovation, and security by design.

CALL TO ACTION

Fastly continues to raise the bar in facilitating developer innovation. Its programmable software-defined architecture provides high availability and performance, developer coding flexibility, and deep security to defend against sophisticated cyberattacks. Fastly also offers developers a rich set of resources that enable higher efficiency and productivity, allowing these professionals to focus on creating delightful online experiences for users.

Consequently, MI&S believes Fastly is well positioned to deliver a holistic compute and connectivity platform that enables an innovative and secure developer journey. Download the [Fastly e-book](#) to learn more.

CONTRIBUTOR

[Will Townsend](#), Vice President & Principal Analyst, Networking & Security Practices

PUBLISHER

[Patrick Moorhead](#), Founder, President, & Chief Analyst at [Moor Insights & Strategy](#)

INQUIRIES

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