



Government of the Netherlands

Starting a Sovereign Chat Project in the Dutch Government: Early Lessons

Gideon Bleumink, Ministry of Defence, The Netherlands

Manfred Zielinski, Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, The Netherlands

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- Lessons learned: Ministry of Defence pilot (Gideon)
- Matrix project at the Dutch Central Government (Manfred)

Ministry of Defence pilot

Status quo

- Disparate set of chat apps.
- Most of which lack end-to-end encryption
- Surely no one would share classified information over a third party app
- Legal compliance is laborious

Desired state

- Legal compliance is automatic
- Unified application across security boundaries
 - Security labeling of messages and groups
- Integration with similar applications in NATO or tactical domain

Lessons learned

1. Don't try to transform your entire organization in one go

START SMALL

Lessons learned

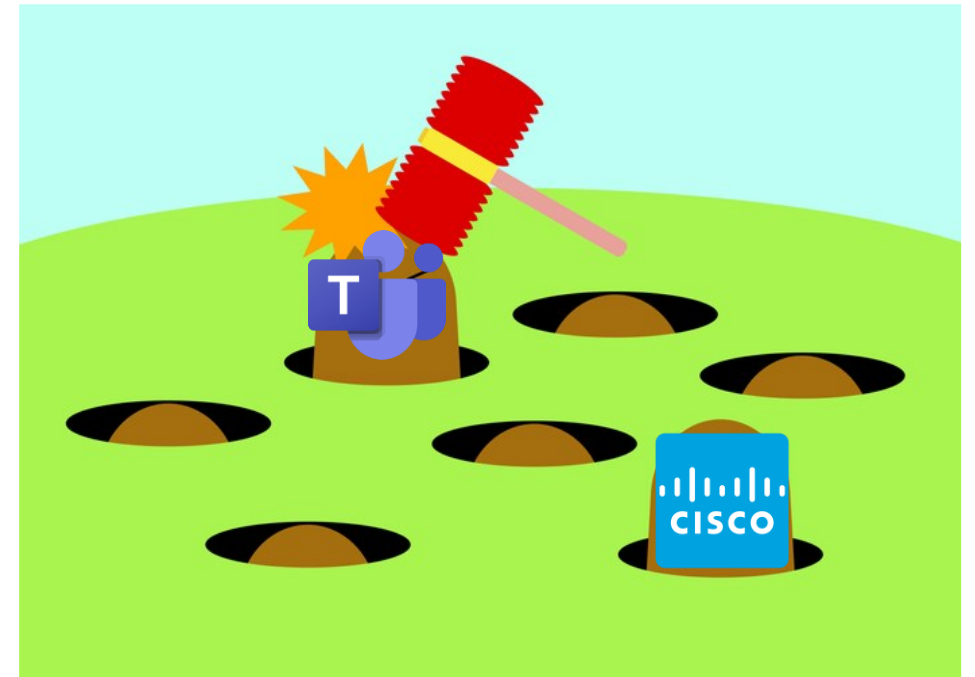
2. Don't do it yourself

FIND ALLIES

Lessons learned

3. Don't choose functional requirements, choose values

DO THE RIGHT THING



Lessons learned

1. Start small
2. Find allies
3. Do the right thing

Matrix project at the Dutch central government

Why a sovereign chat service for the central government?

- Public Values
- Sovereignty
- Continuity
- Archiving

Archiving

- Public records by law
- Legal duty to preserve and disclose
- Structured selection, not blanket retention
- Privacy as a boundary condition

What will we deliver?

- A chat and chat archiving service for the central government
- Sovereign, secure, federative, built on the open protocol Matrix
- Compliant with laws and regulations
- Support for archiving, privacy and efficiency
- Exploring bridging with other platforms (Signal, WhatsApp) and post-quantum encryption

When will we deliver this?

2026



2028



Thank You

Contact:

Gideon Bleumink @gbl:kixs.org

Manfred Zielinski @manfredzielinski:matrix.org