

Customer Case Study



HOSTED MENDER

Key Benefits

1. Remove the time-consuming setup and maintenance of the Mender management server
2. Maximize uptime with fully redundant Mender server
3. Future-proof your product and scale horizontally with Hosted Mender

Why Mender

1. Safe: Mender's core capabilities focused on a robust and secure update process
2. Easy to implement and manage
3. Allowed Blokable to focus on core competency: their own product

Company Biography

Blokable (<https://blokable.com/>) is helping solve one of society's most pressing problems: a lack of housing where and when it's needed most. By approaching housing as a scalable, human-interactive, high-quality product, they are reinventing the way we design, build, finance and deploy housing.

Blokable uses advanced materials and manufacturing to shift from wasteful construction projects to scalable, high-quality products. Blokable delivers on the unfulfilled promises of prefab by using aerospace-grade materials and innovative manufacturing processes to build housing units -- integrating hardware, software and services -- that are perfectly designed, built and delivered on-site.

Rather than relying on the traditional industry to change its profit models, or insufficient subsidies that are band-aids on a systemic financial problem, Blokable is using their product to provide a new, essential service: housing development. Housing development-as-a-service changes the profit model in housing, creating a truly inclusive equity ownership model that serves both developers and people living in these homes.

Challenge

Blokable needed a failsafe approach to deploying software updates to their devices. Given the nature of Blokable's product, security was very important as well as ensuring the update mechanism was reliable. "We considered rolling our own updater, which we realized could be a very time-consuming endeavor. We also considered other open source and commercial OTA options," said Justin Huff, Senior Software Engineer at Blokable.



blokable™

"Our most important requirements were security, safety, ease of implementation, and ease of management. We didn't want another 'thing' that required us to run and manage."

Solution

"When I signed up for Hosted Mender, it was clear Mender met all the requirements on our list," said Huff. "It was a solid product with strong integration with Yocto."

Hosted Mender also provides many of the security and uptime capabilities that would have required a lot of infrastructure setup and maintenance to do on-premise. With an on-demand Hosted OTA updater, the Blokable team were able to focus on their core competency: the development of their product.

"I liked the idea it wasn't something I needed to maintain. OTA updates are now really easy to build and roll out and the security capabilities such as code signing are easy to understand."

- Justin Huff

Senior Software Engineer at Blokable

Benefit

Hosted Mender provides Blokable with a quick and easy way to implement OTA updates to their connected devices without sacrificing security or robustness. The SaaS model also allows Blokable to take advantage of the technology without the setup and maintenance overhead.

