

Dojo x Spacelift: Unifying infrastructure as code with governance and visibility



DOJO

1,001 – 5,000

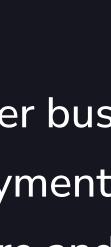
Company size

AWS + Google Cloud, Terraform + Terragrunt, Pulumi, Crossplane

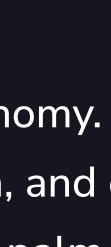
Stack



Spacelift provides a single source of truth for all infrastructure activity.



Enforced policies provide governance guardrails and protect against risk.



The elimination of manual validation fuels operational efficiency.

Summary

Dojo, the UK's number one payments provider, creates sophisticated tools and technologies that streamline transactions; however, internally, it needed to streamline its fragmented infrastructure practices. The payments organization was running Terraform/Terragrunt pipelines in GitHub Actions, while the wider organization utilized a heterogeneous mix of workflows ranging from manual updates to varying code-based approaches. The result was inconsistent governance, poor visibility, and engineers spending hours parsing lengthy CI logs. Adopting Spacelift provided Dojo with centralized visibility, policy-driven guardrails, and a smoother developer experience — enabling confident and compliant infrastructure changes at scale.

Dojo's mission is to empower businesses to thrive in the experience economy. With a next-gen card machine that takes payments over 50% faster than the competition, and data and insights that help customers measure and manage their card payments from the palm of their hand, they create the tools and technology that turn transactions into meaningful relationships.

Reliability, governance, and compliance are critical. As the company scaled, its Payments team adopted Terraform and Terragrunt in GitHub Actions, whereas the wider organization relied on a mix of ClickOps and application-driven infrastructure provisioning. This resulted in silos, inconsistent governance, and limited visibility into infrastructure changes.

“ We had a very fragmented infrastructure management with no unified way to see all the infrastructure changes that were happening.

Tibor Benke
Senior Engineering Team Lead

To mature its infrastructure as code (IaC) practices, Dojo sought a solution that would unify its workflows, enforce governance, and improve developer experience across teams.

The challenge for Dojo

Without a cohesive approach to managing its infrastructure, engineers at Dojo struggled with a range of issues:

- **Fragmented workflows:** The payments organization relied on Terraform/Terragrunt via GitHub Actions, whereas other teams adopted a mixture of ClickOps or Infrastructure from Code, where they provision infrastructure as their services start up. Still other teams had trialled Pulumi and used it in production.
- **Lack of governance:** There were no system-level controls or enforced approvals for high-risk or costly changes.
- **Limited visibility:** Developers manually scanned thousands of CI log lines to interpret changes, introducing risk and slowing reviews.

“ Before Spacelift, we'd scroll through endless Terragrunt logs searching for keywords. The visualization in Spacelift — seeing exactly what changed — has been a huge quality-of-life improvement, especially for engineers new to IaC.

David Garnett Welsh
Senior Staff Engineer

Why Dojo chose Spacelift

Dojo evaluated other vendors and considered building an in-house tool, but neither approach would deliver what they needed. Competing products didn't support Terragrunt at the time, and maintaining a custom platform would have required significant overhead.

Spacelift stood out for three reasons:

1. **Purpose-built for IaC:** Spacelift offered governance and visibility designed specifically for Terraform and Terragrunt.
2. **Ease of adoption:** Setup was quick and self-directed with clear documentation and minimal configuration.
3. **Mature feature set:** Policy guardrails, role-based permissions, and deep GitHub integration enabled infrastructure to be deployed safely without slowing developers.

“ Spacelift is a tool built for one purpose, and it does it really well. We could make it work quite quickly without any handholding.

Tibor Benke
Senior Engineering Team Lead

Dojo's Spacelift experience

Dojo manages its infrastructure in a couple of monorepos, each of which is opinionated in some way. This structure balances standardization and flexibility across teams.

Stack configuration

Stacks are currently created via the Spacelift UI and managed in Terraform. Each monorepo contains multiple stacks, with Spacelift running all relevant Terragrunt configurations using the run-all functionality. The folder structure of this is broken down

by project, where the root of the stack is configured by account/project. The run-all feature respects the

dependencies defined between modules, ensuring that

changes are applied in the correct order and simplifying the

process of managing complex infrastructure:

```
/terraform
```

```
/modules
```

```
/<cloud_provider>
```

```
/common
```

```
/<some_domain>
```

```
/providers
```

```
/<cloud_provider>
```

```
/<project_name>
```

```
/common
```

```
/<environment>
```

```
/<region>
```

```
/<some_domain>
```

The result?

- **Unified visibility** — A single source of truth for all infrastructure activity
- **Governance guardrails** — Enforced policies that protect against risk
- **Higher developer confidence** — Safe, transparent changes even for less experienced engineers
- **Operational efficiency** — Time once spent on manual validation now fuels delivery and innovation

“ Once we integrated and got initial support touchpoints, it just set off and did this thing. The visibility alone has been the biggest win.

David Garnett Welsh
Senior Staff Engineer

Dojo plans to:

• Onboard its remaining AWS and GCP accounts within six months

• Expand policy-as-code coverage and Terraform registry integration

• Increase self-service infrastructure under controlled governance

• Continue using Spacelift to centralize and mature its IaC workflows

As governance and automation deepen, Dojo expects even greater velocity — combining developer freedom with operational control. By using Spacelift to create a unified, governed IaC platform that combines policy guardrails, contextual automation, and centralized visibility, Dojo's engineers now deliver faster, safer, and with greater confidence.

“ The overall time Spacelift saves us has come from stuff we can't really estimate — like the overall time it used to take us to interpret results. Developers don't have to look through the logs anymore because they can just click on a link and get the results immediately.

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