
HOIST IT
DATA SOVEREIGNTY AND RUST
ROBIN EVERAARS · 2026-09-09

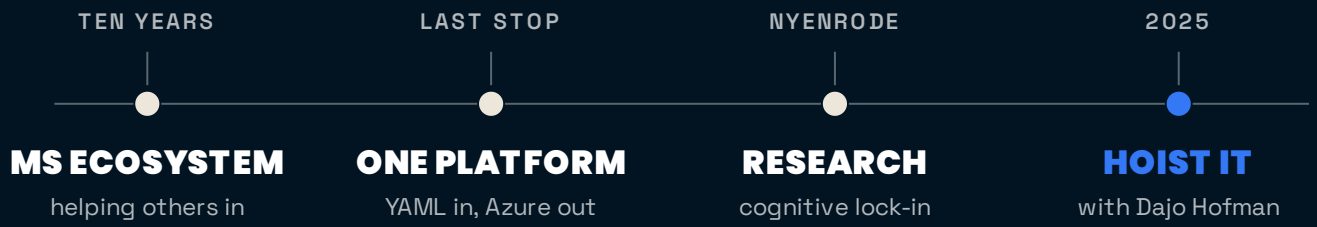
For ten years I helped organisations into the Microsoft ecosystem.
Now I help them out.



WE ENABLE DATA SOVEREIGNTY

Built a sovereign data platform so you can leave, including us.

WHO IS TALKING



WHY? SOMEBODY ELSE DECIDED

US EXECUTIVE ORDER, 2025

An ICC (The Hague) judges Microsoft-account was blocked. Cards stopped working. Alexa stopped answering.

US EXPORT CONTROL, JUNE 2026

Claude Fable switched off for everybody, three days after launch by request of the US Government.

US TERRORIST DESIGNATION, AUGUST 2026

An Italian volunteer host, named a global terrorist. The US registry for .org took its domain.

DUTCH PARTIES, NO FOREIGN LAW

Netherlands: Treatment data reached insurers without asking patients. Unlawful, 2019.

Luckily, people are waking up. The law is moving. DORA: a tested exit, 2025. Data Act: switching charges zero, 2027. More proposed.

Some people who warned us already: Bert Hubert, Marleen Stikker and many more.

It’s in a Dutch data centre.

A mental-healthcare professional
ABOUT THEIR ELECTRONIC PATIENT DOSSIER,
EARLIER THIS YEAR

Resolved hostnames.
Advertised cloud certifications.
Job ads.

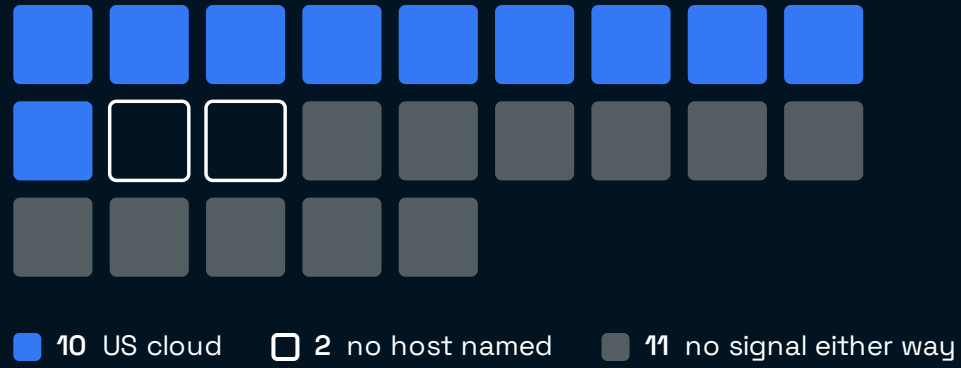


27 MENTAL-HEALTHCARE RECORD SYSTEMS

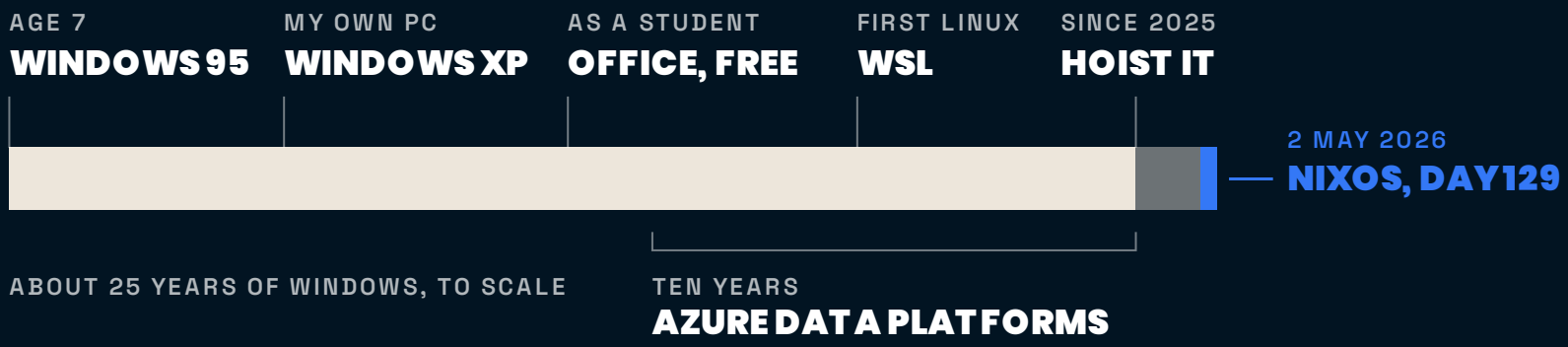
10 of 23

Ten point to a US cloud. For the other seventeen this check settles nothing.

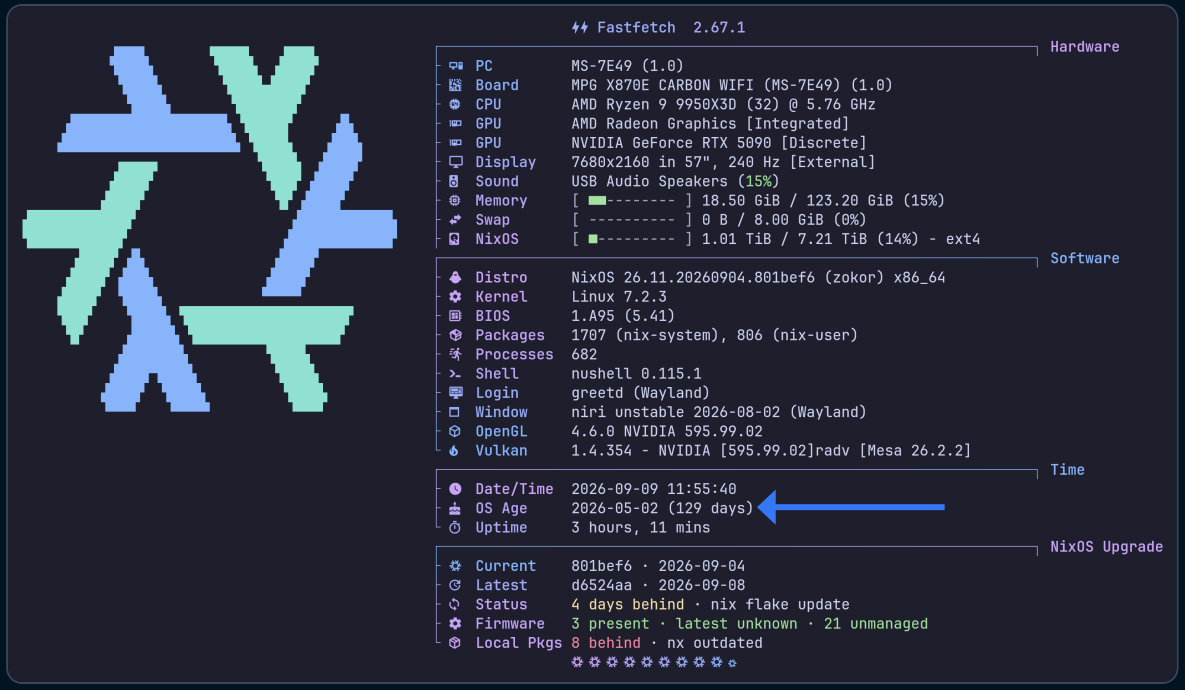
Everaars, R. June 2026.



MY OWN LOCK-IN, BY HABIT



MY OWN LOCK-IN, BY HABIT



HABIT, AGAIN

The second platform, eight weeks in

.devcontainer/Dockerfile

```
FR0
```

“

Our security requirements mandate that all our solutions are hosted on premise.

Adyen data science team

BUILDING OUR DATA SCIENCE PLATFORM, 2018



OWNERSHIP IS A RUST FEATURE

ownership.rs

```
let records = Records::load();   // one controller of the data
let view = &records;             // supplier access, with an end date
let archive = records;           // a transfer you can prove
drop(archive);                   // erasure, with a receipt
records.len();
// error[E0382]: borrow of moved value
```

HOW RUST CONTRIBUTES TO SOVEREIGNTY

NO RUNTIME TO LICENSE

The layer is gone, so nobody gets to price it per employee.

Removes: the runtime owner.

Oracle Java SE Universal Subscription, 2023

A BUILD YOU CAN PROVE

Vendor the crates, build offline, diff the hash. Work, not a default.

Removes: trusting someone else's binary.

```
cargo build --release --offline --locked
```

SMALL TEAMS BUILT THE ALTERNATIVE, FAST

Polars in Amsterdam, Qdrant in Berlin, Meilisearch in Paris, Garage on EU research money.

Removes: waiting for a vendor to offer one.

Garage: an S3 store on 5.5 EU-funded person-years

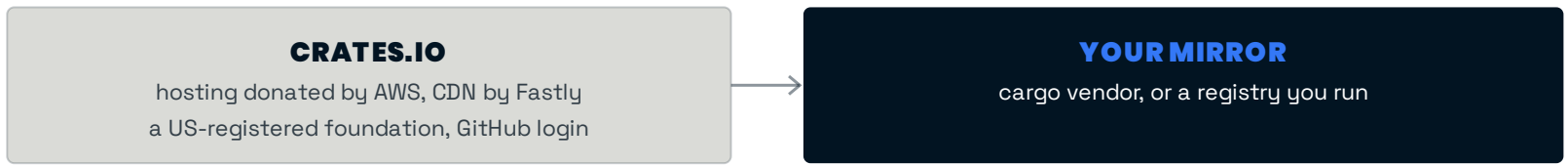
A FLOOR HELD BY FOUNDATIONS

The Rust Foundation and the ASF. Plural funders, so no single vendor's kill switch to throw.

Moved, not removed.

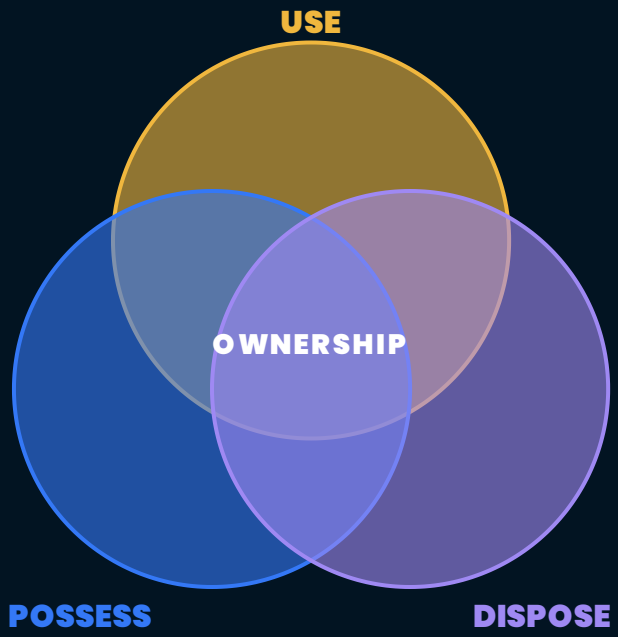
The ASF governs DataFusion. Both are US-registered.

THE CHANNEL IS NOT SOVEREIGN, YET



GERMANY NOTICED **SOVEREIGN TECH AGENCY** Its fund invests in the Rust Foundation's release and backup infrastructure. Its fellowship pays two Rust maintainers, since June 2026.

SOVEREIGNTY = OWNERSHIP = FREE CHOICE



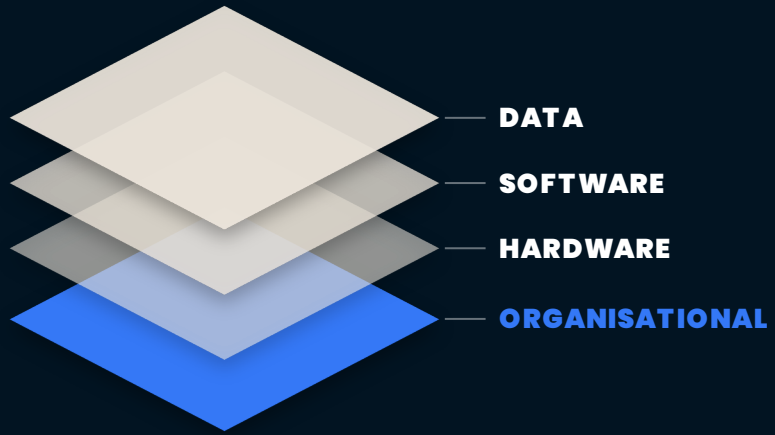
- **USE**
  Who may process it, for what, on whose terms?
- **POSSESS**
  Where does it live, and who can reach it?
- **DISPOSE**
  Can you end it, and prove it?

SOVEREIGNTY = OWNERSHIP = FREE CHOICE



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LAYERS OF DATA SOVEREIGNTY



DATA

The records. Ownership is the goal.

SOFTWARE

Control the software, and you control the data.

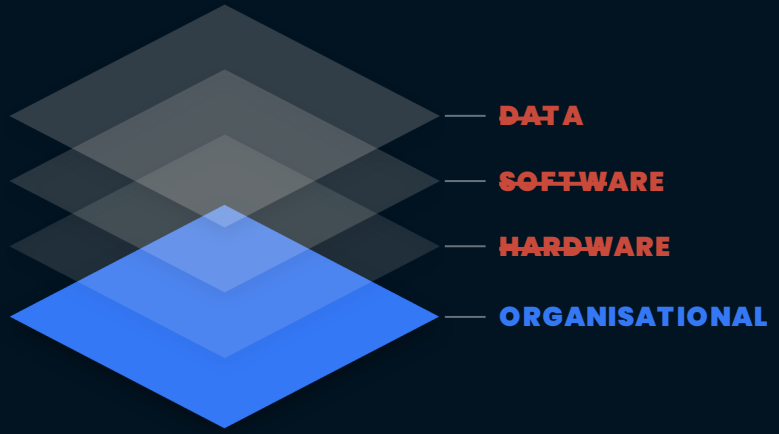
HARDWARE

Portable software makes the hardware a choice.

ORGANISATIONAL

Law, terms and agreements decide whether the other three count.

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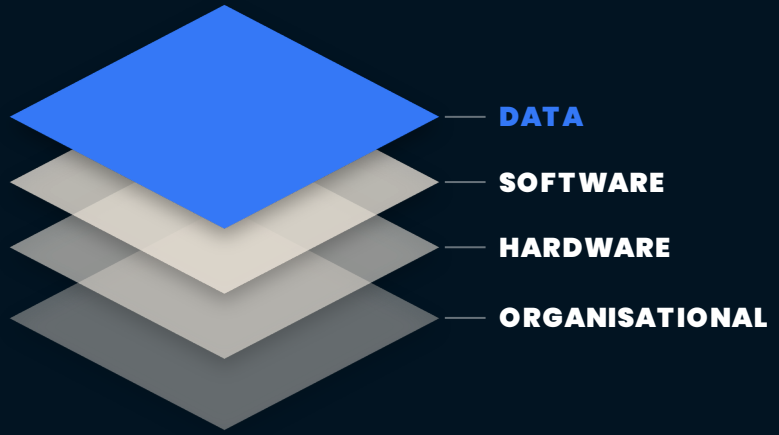
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THE CASE hoist-it.nl/blog/the-fourth-layer-of-data-sovereignty

OUR PLATFORM




```
$ hoist security cr
```

DATA

Open standards. Take it anywhere, from anywhere. Destroy it and prove it.

SOFTWARE

Source access. Hoist the platform too.

HARDWARE

Any Kubernetes. Air-gapped included.

ORGANISATIONAL

A tested exit. Leave even us behind.

DESTROY IT AND PROVE IT

verify it in your own terminal — RECORDED

```
$ hoist security crypto-shred-verify --subject DANA
|  Sending data with subject "DANA"
```

DO THE SELF CHECK

ONE PLATFORM YOU OWN	DATA	SOFTWARE	HARDWARE	ORGANISATIONAL
POSSESS Do we hold it?	Is there a complete copy we control?	Do we hold the source and the keys?	Whose rack, and whose jurisdiction?	Do the terms let us hold it?
USE Can we run it our way?	Open formats, tooling we did not buy?	Runs with no vendor control plane?	Can we add a node this week?	Can we change it without approval?
DISPOSE Can we leave?	Export in hours, or in quarters?	Can we fork it, or is it a renegotiation?	Ours outright, or a renewal date?	**CAN WE EXIT, AND PROVE IT?**

HOW LAKESAIL ENABLED "DISPOSE"

pull request

```
feat: speak the Spark protocol

// Reduce the (mental) switching cost.
```

KNOW AND ADAPT TO WHAT PEOPLE ARE USED TO

LakeSail did it with the Spark protocol.
It is how I leave Microsoft without relearning an alternative to PySpark.

THREE THINGS TO TAKE HOME

01 Lock-in is a habit before it is a contract.

MURRAY AND HÄUBL, J. CONSUMER RESEARCH 2007 · BERT HUBERT, BERTHUB.EU

02 Sovereignty over software includes what it is built with, and the channel that ships it.

THIS ONE IS OURS

03 ”It is not a question not whether the blow lands. Sovereignty determines how many moves you have when it does.”

EDZO BOTJES, IN CONVERSATION, SEPTEMBER 2026

I WRITE ABOUT THIS

hoist-it.nl/blog

THE OPEN TOOLKIT

hoist-it.nl/toolkit

Twelve questions included. Hummel and colleagues read 341 papers and found no shared definition, so ours is written down. Moving to our Forgejo so you can contribute.

COME AND DISCUSS



DAJO HOFMAN

Co-Founder &
Chief Software Architect



ROBIN EVERAARS

Co-Founder &
Chief Data Architect

hoist-it.nl/toolkit Free and no sign-up.

FOUR POINTS ON OUR COMPASS



SENSE

Navigate with purpose. Listen first, then build in short, deliberate tacks.



SHARE

Keep the waters open. Open standards, open source, open dialogue.



MATURE

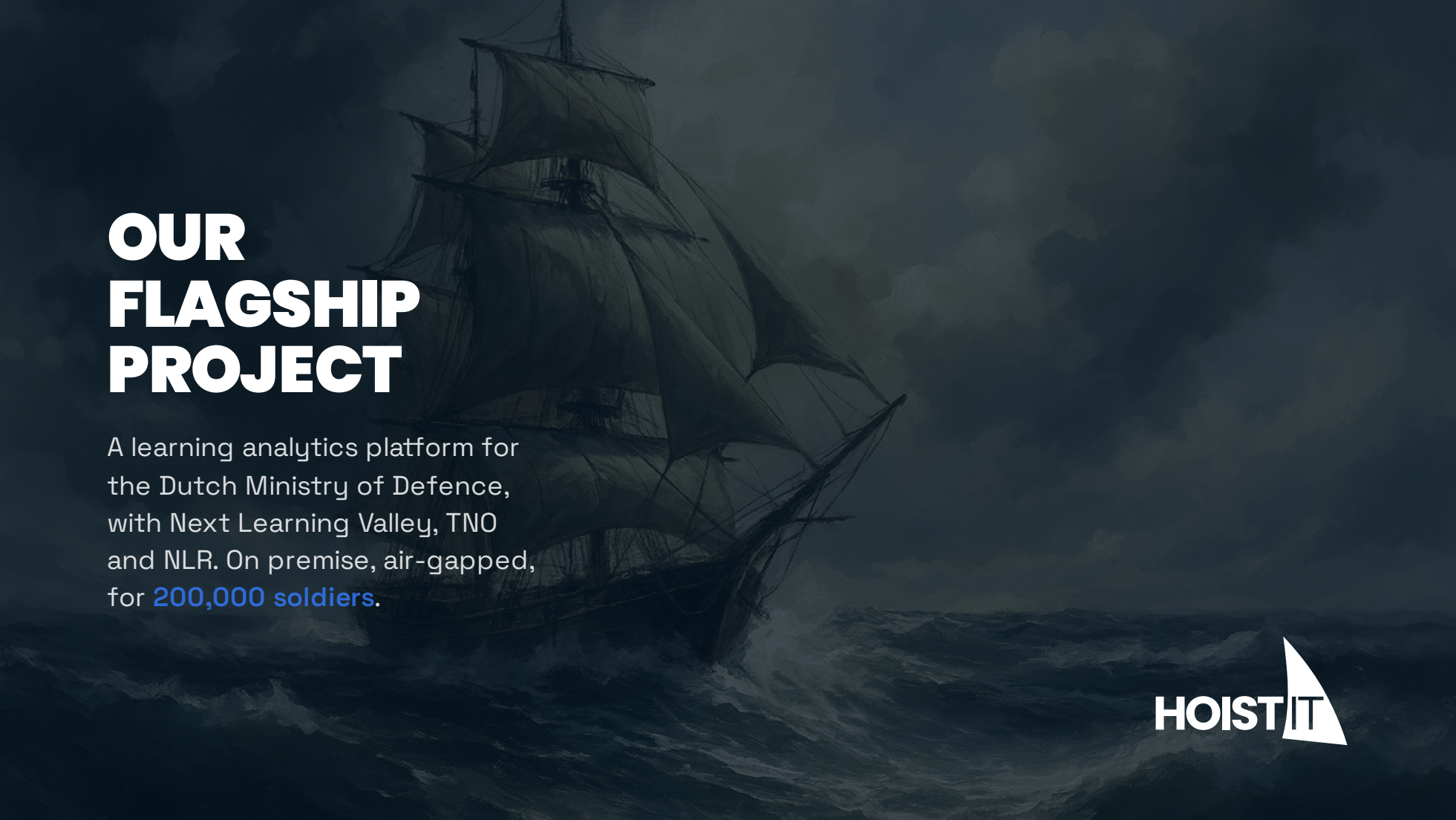
Sail with integrity. Secure and governed by default, built into the hull.



SERVE

Hoist more than profits. Shared value, and responsibility with it.

HOIST IT



OUR FLAGSHIP PROJECT

A learning analytics platform for the Dutch Ministry of Defence, with Next Learning Valley, TNO and NLR. On premise, air-gapped, for 200,000 soldiers.

HOIST IT

That is the flag worth raising over your own data.

HOST ANYWHERE, OWN EVERYTHING.

HOISTIT