Datacenter Transformation in the AWS Cloud

Cloud-Migration and modernization case study for SMEs

Conclusion

To fulfill the ambitions of the rapidly growing and emerging Austrian company, "SG-Toolbox," to claim the tool market for itself in the long term, the IT infrastructure was strategically renewed to support growth and the necessary flexibility. As part of this digitalization initiative, the entire data center was migrated from a local data center to the AWS Cloud and optimized in the process. Now, nothing stands in the way of strong growth and maximum flexibility to establish itself in the market!

The Challenge

Heterogeneous IT Infrastructure
The use of various hardware and software prevented standardized processes from being followed equally by all employees!

Performance & Flexibility
Main applications, such as the ERP software, the webshop, or the file system, frequently caused performance bottlenecks and offered little room to ensure rapid growth!

Costs
Due to local hardware, expensive maintenance extensions were repeatedly necessary, along with high costs for services related to the maintenance and operation of the hardware!

Reasons to migrate to the AWS Cloud with SNS

Amazon Web Services (AWS) has helped thousands of companies migrate to the cloud, from global enterprises to small businesses. Whether large or small, these companies have enjoyed a range of similar benefits – from significant IT cost savings to improvements in productivity, security, and business agility. The combination of AWS's experience and SNS services offers a comprehensive and proven approach for successful cloud migrations, ensuring that you can achieve your desired results more quickly and confidently.

SG TOOLBOX
Werkzeug Beratung Service

Information about SG-Toolbox GmbH

"SG-Toolbox GmbH is the leading premium tool specialist in Austria, excelling in advisory competence and product range. Machines are more than just 'tools' for us.

SG TOOLBOX LIVES AND BREATHES TOOLS

The product range spans from hand tools to machines, power supply systems, and complex fastening systems for the automotive industry and mechanical engineering. Always clearly focused on the needs of their customers.

As a dynamic partner to the industry, construction companies, and craft businesses, innovative customer solutions and a fascination for tools and machines are the driving forces.

The SG Toolbox team consists exclusively of industry insiders. They are EXPERTS when it comes to tools, machines, and capital goods."

"Together with SNS, we have taken a huge step towards digitalization and are now excited to efficiently and cost-effectively offer all our services from the AWS cloud to the world. "

- Hannes Pichler (CEO)

> "
> It was a lot of fun working with SG-Toolbox, and we are glad that our modern IT concept was warmly welcomed.
>
> We are confident that we have now laid a milestone for future growth and look forward to a shared digital future.
> "
> –Julian Seiler (SNS)

Reasons to work with SNS - Saturn Networking Solutions GmbH

SNS has over 25 years of experience in IT infrastructure and supporting SMEs. This expertise can be perfectly shared with the newly established Cloud Business Unit within SNS. The result is an understanding of SME requirements, from flexibility to "as a Service" concepts, and cost-effective solutions - all in the AWS Cloud! Especially convincing for SG Toolbox were the short communication channels and the straightforward, long-term partnership-oriented approach!

The Solution

The first step of any migration project is to understand the customer, their business, and requirements better. Through several discussions, SG-Toolbox's ambitions and goals could be mapped onto a roadmap.

The second essential step is to assess the current state of the IT infrastructure. A comprehensive inventory analysis was conducted to analyze performance, utilization, network peaks, etc.

Based on the first two steps, the roadmap was outlined. Specifically for SG-Toolbox, this meant harmonizing the IT infrastructure, migrating the ERP system, webshop, and domain controller to Amazon EC2 instances, setting up a backup using Veeam for AWS, and modernizing mailing with a migration to Office 365, including efficient utilization of storage quotas included in the Office 365 licenses. To ensure the highest possible performance at all locations, VPNs to AWS VPC were established.

To complete the concept, a second factor for login outside of company locations was introduced to ensure additional security. Lastly, kickoff meetings and status update schedules were organized with all stakeholders, from SG-Toolbox to existing IT support and other external parties, to ensure a smooth process.

"Vor allem die Performance des Speichers für unsere Marketingabteilung, welche vor der Umstellung auf einem getrennten Speicherbereich waren, haben uns immer wieder Probleme bereitet. Nun mit der Harmonisierung können wir effizienter arbeiten!"

–Alexandra Pichler (SG-Toolbox)

Results and Benefits

Through the plans and measures described above, the IT infrastructure at SG-Toolbox has been completely renewed.

The establishment of the AWS Cloud infrastructure achieved approximately 50% time savings compared to traditional IT infrastructure methods.

IT harmonization has reduced the need for virtual machines (EC2 instances), utilized free storage resources, and by booking reserved instances, monthly cost savings of around 20% have been achieved for SG Toolbox.

Another significant aspect is the successful implementation of an additional security component, the 2-factor authentication. Employees can now securely access the company network and its applications from anywhere, at any time.

Furthermore, regular backups via Veeam Backup for AWS have been implemented to prevent data loss in case of system failures.

Aside from performance and cost efficiency, the greatest asset is seen in the flexibility now enabled through migration to the AWS Cloud. This includes expanding existing services to accommodate growing sales volumes or increasing numbers of employees, as well as integrating AWS native managed services to enhance existing systems with greater intelligence in the long term.

The possibilities are now limitless!

Last but not least, the infrastructure has been integrated into the monitoring of the SNS Cloud Support Center, allowing SG Toolbox to not worry about IT matters and to rely on our competent specialists for user issues.

Next Steps

Through ongoing monitoring and regular strategy meetings, the current system can not only be kept up to date but also continually adjusted and modernized. Especially through the use of the Trusted Advisor feature within the AWS console, over 115 variables across categories such as security, cost optimization, performance, fault tolerance, and service limits are continuously checked and adjusted for improvement opportunities.

Benefits

1.Reengineering

Analysis, optimization, and harmonization of the existing IT infrastructure in the AWS Cloud. Especially the introduction of automation mechanisms can lead to cost savings and increased efficiency as infrastructures scale.

2. Flexibility

In the AWS Cloud, there are no limits. Services can be spun up with just a few clicks, from simple virtual machines to intelligent AI applications.

3. Cost Optimization

The various pricing models (On-Demand to Reserved) can accommodate all business requirements and optimize costs. Furthermore, ongoing monitoring through AWS Trusted Advisor allows long-term cost savings to be achieved.

4. Full Service

Above all, for "as a Service". The aim is to consume IT services and solutions without worrying about IT. SNS completes this with the Cloud Operation Center and a 24/7 worry-free package.

Information about SNS - Saturn Networking Solutions GmbH

"IT-Infrastructure & Network Solutions on premise & in the cloud"

Our company, founded in 1996, specializes in information technology services, focusing on IT infrastructure and network solutions. Our close collaboration with the Research and Technology Center Softwarepark Hagenberg enables our customers to benefit from the latest concepts in information technology, whether on-premises, hybrid, or in the cloud!

aws
PARTNER
Advanced Tier
Services

- Public Sector
- Immersion Day
- Solution Provider
- Storage Services Competency

- Well-Architected Partner Program
- Amazon EC2 for Windows Server Delivery