

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: FINANCIAL SERVICES

The Modern CIO's Challenge: How to Become Cloud Native

Financial services companies face increasing competition from fintech startups and new transaction platforms such as blockchain, as well as an ever-tougher competitive landscape and more complex regulations.

To survive and thrive, they cannot rely on operational tweaks such as minimizing the cost of their IT infrastructure and maximizing their staff productivity. They must achieve a quantum and permanent leap in their ability to out-innovate their competitors.

That is difficult – if not impossible – when their employees are tied to monolithic, difficult to use applications, and their developers must wait days or weeks for the resources they need to create and test new products and services.

A global financial services firm tackled all of these challenges by working with Cognizant and Pivotal to transform monolithic applications to cloud native applications. Traditionally, clients use a service provider only to perform individual tasks such as coding or testing a software module on a “time and materials” basis. This new approach utilizes a product-focused Digital Engineering Team comprised of cloud native developers, architects, and product managers from the client, Pivotal, and Cognizant. This team has taken

AT A GLANCE

A global financial services firm worked with Cognizant and Pivotal to transform its applications from monolithic to cloud native. The team of cloud native developers, architects and product managers worked together to build an end-to-end product focused solution that reduces maintenance costs and improves business productivity. The services arm of the PaaS (platform as a service) is supported by Pivotal Cloud Foundry (PCF), which speeds application modernization by automating the provisioning of resources to developers, as well as progression of the code from development to testing, quality assurance and production.

OUTCOMES

- Reduced cost in systems maintenance
- Improved advisor productivity through easier to use applications
- Less time and money spent on maintaining existing applications
- More time to focus efforts on delivering new products and services

end-to-end responsibility for bringing innovative new products to market.

The client benefits from this work through reduced costs in systems maintenance and improved productivity through easier to use applications. However the most important and lasting benefit is that the client can spend far less time and money maintaining existing applications, and devote far more effort to delivering new products and services that differentiate it from its competitors.

THE CIO CHALLENGE: FASTER TRANSFORMATION OF APPS TO CLOUD NATIVE

Our first step was to assemble a product-focused engineering team to accelerate the transformation of the firm's applications to cloud native architectures and leverage their existing microservices patterns where possible. The first in what is planned to be a series of projects using the new model is the transformation of two legacy applications which the client's financial advisors had used to execute trades. Providing them everything they need to serve their clients in a single platform will increase advisor productivity and lower IT support costs. Even more importantly, moving such applications to the client's cloud (with Cognizant ultimately taking ownership of the code as a managed service) will make it easier to continually enhance these applications based on user feedback.

The client asked Cognizant to take over the existing behind-schedule application consolidation effort with a team made up of staff from the client, Cognizant, and Pivotal Labs, the services arm of the PaaS (platform as a service) software company. That PaaS platform, Pivotal Cloud Foundry (PCF), speeds application modernization by automating the provisioning of resources such as servers and storage to developers, as well as the progression of the code from development to testing to quality assurance to production. PCF also aids resiliency by automatically creating new instances to replace failed servers, and speeds application updates by automating their progress from development through deployment.

To boost quality while speeding progress, the teams use Extreme Programming techniques, such as pair programming. Using this development methodology code is promoted to production as soon as it is ready instead of waiting for a preplanned milestone date.

When Cognizant and Pivotal staff work side by side with the client, they can more quickly make changes based on client feedback, better prioritize work and train the client on the Pivotal platform as work progresses.

This application modernization effort is one of the first steps in a strategic plan to shift far more of the client's IT budget from maintenance to innovation, and to equip the client to partner with fintech innovators and legacy technology providers as they move more of their offerings to the cloud.

ABOUT COGNIZANT

Cognizant (NASDAQ-100: CTSH) is one of the world's leading professional services companies, transforming clients' business, operating and technology models for the digital era. Our unique industry-based, consultative approach helps clients envision, build and run more innovative and efficient businesses. Headquartered in the U.S., Cognizant is ranked 205 on the Fortune 500 and is consistently listed among the most admired companies in the world. Learn how Cognizant helps clients lead with digital at www.cognizant.com or follow us @Cognizant.



Cognizant

World Headquarters

500 Frank W. Burr Blvd.
Teaneck, NJ 07666 USA
Phone: +1 201 801 0233
Fax: +1 201 801 0243
Toll Free: +1 888 937 3277

European Headquarters

1 Kingdom Street
Paddington Central
London W2 6BD England
Phone: +44 (0) 20 7297 7600
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7121 0102

India Operations Headquarters

#5/535 Old Mahabalipuram Road
Okkiyam Pettai, Thoraipakkam
Chennai, 600 096 India
Phone: +91 (0) 44 4209 6000
Fax: +91 (0) 44 4209 6060