



FLORAL GIANT SOLVES GLOBAL SUPPLY CHAIN CHALLENGES WITH COGNIZANT AND AZURE

European floral company gains cost savings and achieves better supply chain visibility and control with Cognizant-built cloud-first app on Microsoft Azure

The Challenge

The client, a leading Dutch conglomerate of florists, needed to efficiently track the freshness and movement of its products from growers throughout the world. Its traditional logistics application could not scale to meet its requirements, which included a highly available yet secure solution that would be easy to use by flower and plant growers throughout the world, including locations with limited communications infrastructure.

AT A GLANCE

A Europe-based floral retailer needed a better mechanism for tracking shipments to auction centers and buyers from its growers around the world. Cognizant developed a cloud-first logistics management app on Microsoft Azure public cloud that enables the retailer to track shipments throughout their journeys. The scalable, highly available solution will grow with the client's business and has saved the client more than 60% in infrastructure costs.

The Solution

Cognizant proposed and built a cloud-first application on the Microsoft Azure public cloud, delivering the application in less than three months for the initial rollout. Growers use a cloud-based website and cloud-printing capabilities to create, print and scan labels for shipments. These labels are scanned throughout shipment stages, giving the client much greater visibility into how shipments are progressing through the supply chain. The highly available and resilient application has multiple redundancies, preventing business disruption. Further, the solution easily scales up so the client can meet seasonal demand and also scales down, so the client pays only for capacity actually being used. The client has saved 60% in infrastructure costs since deploying the platform-as-a-service solution.

The Approach

Cognizant first gathered requirements from the client using its CloudSteps framework and proven cloud best practices. Key considerations included how best to connect the client's far-flung suppliers, some in remote locations, and how to ensure high availability and capacity while minimizing costs. Cognizant's cloud-first approach and Agile methodology enabled quick delivery of a solution comprised of an Microsoft Azure-based website, cloud printing and a logistics tracking application.

Growers use the website to scan and print labels for shipments; the scan data automatically uploads to the Cognizant-developed online application, enabling the client to track shipments as labels are scanned in different locations. The client now can clearly identify the points at which shipping delays are occurring and take steps to remedy underlying issues. Communication between the

Project Highlights

- 60% IT infrastructure cost savings
- Cloud-first logistics application
- On demand scalability
- Consumption-based pricing
- Greater visibility and control over supply chain

client and its suppliers as well as its customers who purchase the shipments have also improved because supply chain data is more readily available and accurate.

The solution has enabled the client to avoid over-investing in equipment and capacity to manage seasonal peak demand; the platform-based solution automatically scales as demand increases as the client makes the platform available to growers throughout the world. The client has reduced IT infrastructure costs by more than 60% with this consumption-based pricing model.

Cognizant delivered the application in under three months by taking a cloud-first approach, developing the solution with .NET using Azure App service, SQL Azure and Azure Service Bus, and Angular JS and deploying Azure Active Directory on the cloud for identity management and authentication services. Cognizant integrated the app with the client's ERP system and is working with the client to expand the application's functionality. Cognizant also operates and supports the solution and provides disaster recovery services.

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.



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