Cognizant

GLOBAL ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS MANUFACTURER GAINS OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES AFTER ACQUISITION INTEGRATION

Cognizant's cost effective, holistic infrastructure-plus-support solution for migrating an acquisition's Oracle E-business suite to AWS streamlined operations and increased control, enabling the manufacturer to focus on high value business initiatives.

The Challenge

Serving its international customer and channel partner base increasingly required a more flexible, scalable infrastructure for a leading electrical equipment manufacturer and supplier. The company also wanted to realize economies of scale from its acquisition of a major brand by streamlining operations. The acquired business relied on Oracle's E-Business suite of services and its own data center, and the parent company wanted greater visibility into this data.

Cognizant did not have full access to the acquired company's data center. Knowledge and documentation about existing systems, applications and data center assets were nearly non-existent, making an accurate project scope difficult to define. Network bandwidth was limited, and multiple third party dependencies existed. Finally, the app and data migration had to be completed within 90 days – without business interruption.

AT A GLANCE

An international manufacturer of electrical and electronics equipment wanted to streamline the acquired company's operations of its mission-critical enterprise business systems and data center. A key goal was integrating the acquisition's business applications and data into the parent company's existing data center. Using its proprietary cloud migration framework, Cognizant enabled a timely, smooth migration of the critical applications and data to AWS , while ensuring daily business operations were unaffected.

The Solution

Cognizant deployed a secure, scalable AWS Cloud for the acquired company's Oracle as well as non-Oracle applications and migrated those applications and 3.4 TB of production and 3 TB of non-production data to the cloud. A channel between AWS and the data center integrates cloud application data into the parent company's data center, providing visibility.

The solution included installing and configuring Oracle 10g and other Oracle e-Business suite applications in AWS , as well as integrating external systems, some based with third parties. Under a managed services agreement, Cognizant monitors systems and migrates up to 60 GB of production data as a daily incremental back up via the AWS Storage Gateway.

The Approach

Cognizant planned the migration with its Cloud Steps Transformation Framework, which includes processes and prebuilt solution blueprints for accelerating cloud adoption for specific workloads. Client documentation was minimal, and knowledge had been lost from personnel shifts in the acquisition. Cloud Steps ensured all the required system parameters were collected and usage parameters measured, while stakeholder meetings helped to gather missing details. All were incorporated into the migration planning.

This included determining third-party dependencies within the acquisition's data center. Cognizant managed meetings with a variety of third-party vendors to help uncover the full scope of the migration. Further, the team clearly identified the apps with the highest business value so team members could set priorities for the migration timing.

The acquired company was running Oracle Linux 5.4 and 5.9; neither version is supported by AWS . Cognizant did a RAW image migration of these to the AWS environment and re-platformed them to a more recent, AWS -supported version of Linux.

> The highly scalable, cost effective solution was delivered within three months and has reduced operating costs by $8,000 per month.

Project Highlights

- Secure, scalable infrastructure

- Operating costs reduced by $8,000 per month

- Highly available applications suite

- Enhanced data security

- Improved quality of service

- Integration with parent company data center

Cognizant's migration plan insulated business operations from being affected by the migration activities. The initial migration copied the data to AWS. Applications essentially were run in parallel on AWS and the acquired company's data center. Cognizant closely monitored incremental data for accuracy. Only after thorough testing were the apps on AWS declared live.

To overcome limited network bandwidth for the major initial data upload of 6.4TB and incremental daily transfers of about 60GB , Cognizant implemented the AWS Storage Gateway, with dedicated bandwidth. The gateway accomplished the large transfer in two days and handles the daily backups in a few hours.

Cognizant also integrated external systems into the solution, including printers, a mail server and a shared X-Drive to streamline operations.

The solution ensures the parent company has full visibility into the acquired division's data for use with analytics, planning and logistics tools. The built-in redundancy of AWS ensures the cloud-based data and applications suite are now highly available. Cognizant's decision to use virtual machines vs. dedicated systems in the AWS environment provides additional cost savings to the client. The solution's auto-scaling ensures that required capacity will always be available. The client and its subsidiary are experiencing higher levels of service, yet have streamlined and reduced the cost of operations.

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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