From Zero to Azure in just eleven working days

Companies gain significant advantages in terms of both scalability and flexibility by operating IT systems in the cloud. However, both the transformation and subsequent rebuilding of IT systems within the cloud can present project managers with immense challenges – especially when creating complex SAP landscapes that need to be ready within a few days.

Initial Situation

In order to implement a global cloud strategy, AirPlus undertook a major transformation project. The goal - to run the entire application landscape including 170 applications covering business, finance, CRM and ERP using innovative technologies such as big data in the Microsoft Azure Cloud. The global SAP implementation stage was a decisive milestone in this ambitious project. To avoid jeopardizing the initial implementation – and therefore the overall plan – Arvato Systems built the crucial basic SAP landscape elements in just eleven working days.

Vision

Speed, Agility, and Flexibility – transferring its IT landscape to the Microsoft Azure Cloud gives AirPlus the opportunity to remain competitive in a volatile market environment. Following the company-wide introduction of the SAP on Azure, the company hopes to see a decrease in IT costs along with optimized internal processes and future-oriented flexibility.

The customer

- AirPlus with its Headquarter in Neu-Isenburg is a financial services provider and a subsidiary of Deutsche Lufthansa AG.
- AirPlus has a total staff of 1,300 employees worldwide to support over 49,000 customers within different industries and company sizes.

Business

- Financial services, travel management

Solution

Thanks to the specialists at Arvato Systems and excellent team-wide cooperation, the required basic SAP systems in the cloud were created in a very short time: After four days, the complete infrastructure including networks, virtual machines and Database-as-a-Service (DBaaS) was in place. The stack included 31 servers with 270 virtual processors (CPUs), 1.8 terabytes of RAM and 11 terabytes of data storage (SSD). Arvato Systems migrated copies of existing SAP systems to the cloud in just nine days. As well as S4 HANA, SQL databases were installed via OpenText Business Capture Center along with SAP Solution Manager 7.2 in anticipation of future production systems. 31 servers and 11 fully configured SAP systems with backup data were set up in just eleven working days, ensuring the timely launch of the project.

Our Services

Arvato Systems knows from decades of experience what it takes to operate SAP systems successfully in the cloud: For the Multi Cloud Service Integrator, the setup and transformation as well as the operation and support of complex IT landscapes are part of the core business. Arvato Systems is therefore in a position to find optimal solutions for individual customer requirements and to ensure a fast, cost-optimized procedure with the appropriate security level. With over 40 years of SAP project and operational experience, Arvato Systems also has extensive knowledge of SAP implementation. Infrastructure-as-Code (IaC), managed by Terraform makes every step available as a code or reproducible Button print. The CI/CD pipeline is based on Microsoft Visual Studio Team Services and enables automated deployment that is less prone to error and combines easy to understand configurations with the highest standard of governance requirements. Ansible provides reliable automated software provisioning.

Customer Benefits

Flexibility is not only a result of successful cloud projects, it is a prerequisite for their success: Without the agile, flexible and secure approach taken by Arvato Systems, setting up these environments would not have been possible. With our years of experience in managing complex application landscapes – both in the cloud and on-site – and our ability to match tools with skilled experts, we were able to quickly meet the high expectations of AirPlus. Cloud-based SAP systems offer several advantages: The global SAP landscape is cost-effective and fully-customizable. It offers the ideal conditions for flexible testing and development and the eleven already deployed SAP systems cover one-third of the global SAP application landscape.

Case overview

Task

- IT Transformation: Build 31 servers and eleven SAP systems in the Microsoft Azure cloud
- The introduction of a company-wide SAP cloud solution that takes previously used legacy systems into account as well as the connection of new applications was a notable feature of the transformation.
- Time: from zero to Azure in just eleven business days

Technology

- S/4 HANA 1709 (DEV & QA)
- Fiori Frontend-Server 4.0 auf Basis Netweaver 7.52 (DEV & QA)
- SAP GRC Access Control 12.0/ Netweaver 7.52 (DEV & QA)
- SAP IDM 8.0/Netweaver 7.5 (DEV & QA)
- SAP Convergent Charging 5.0 (DEV & QA)
- OpenText Business Capture Center

Result

- Since the required system landscapes were ready, the implementation of the global SAP project could start on time. In the next step, Arvato Systems was able to support the installation of around 260,000 SAPSE in the Azure Cloud.

Further questions? Feel free to contact us.

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