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FAST FORWARD TO THE FUTURE

Solutions30
Solutions for New Technologies

CASE STUDY

Solutions30

Increases Scalability and Improves Cloud Infrastructure Costs with Comprehensive Cloud Transformation

Cloud Consulting | AWS Cloud Migration | Platform Engineering

Solutions30, a leading European provider of digital support solutions, partnered with Stratpoint to successfully transform and optimize their Cloud infrastructure, reducing monthly Cloud spend by 24.5%, enhancing Cloud security, and improving scalability.



Background

Luxembourg-based Solutions30 was determined to be ahead of digital transformation in implementing and maintaining new technologies across various sectors. Facing rising AWS (Amazon Web Services) Cloud costs and opportunities for greater efficiency, Solutions30 aimed to enhance their Cloud infrastructure and scalability. The company also saw an opportunity to onboard a new DevOps team to efficiently manage their Cloud environment and collaborate with their internal team. To scale Cloud operations, Solutions30 saw an opportunity to augment their internal DevOps capabilities and accelerate automation and observability:



Monitoring & Observability, Pipeline, Infrastructure as Code

- Opportunity to implement a centralized solution for observing and monitoring resources to enhance computing and cost optimization
- Further potential to automate pipeline processes for various infrastructure tasks
- Expanding the use of Infrastructure as Code (IaC) to enable repeatable and scalable infrastructure



EKS Scaling & Maintenance

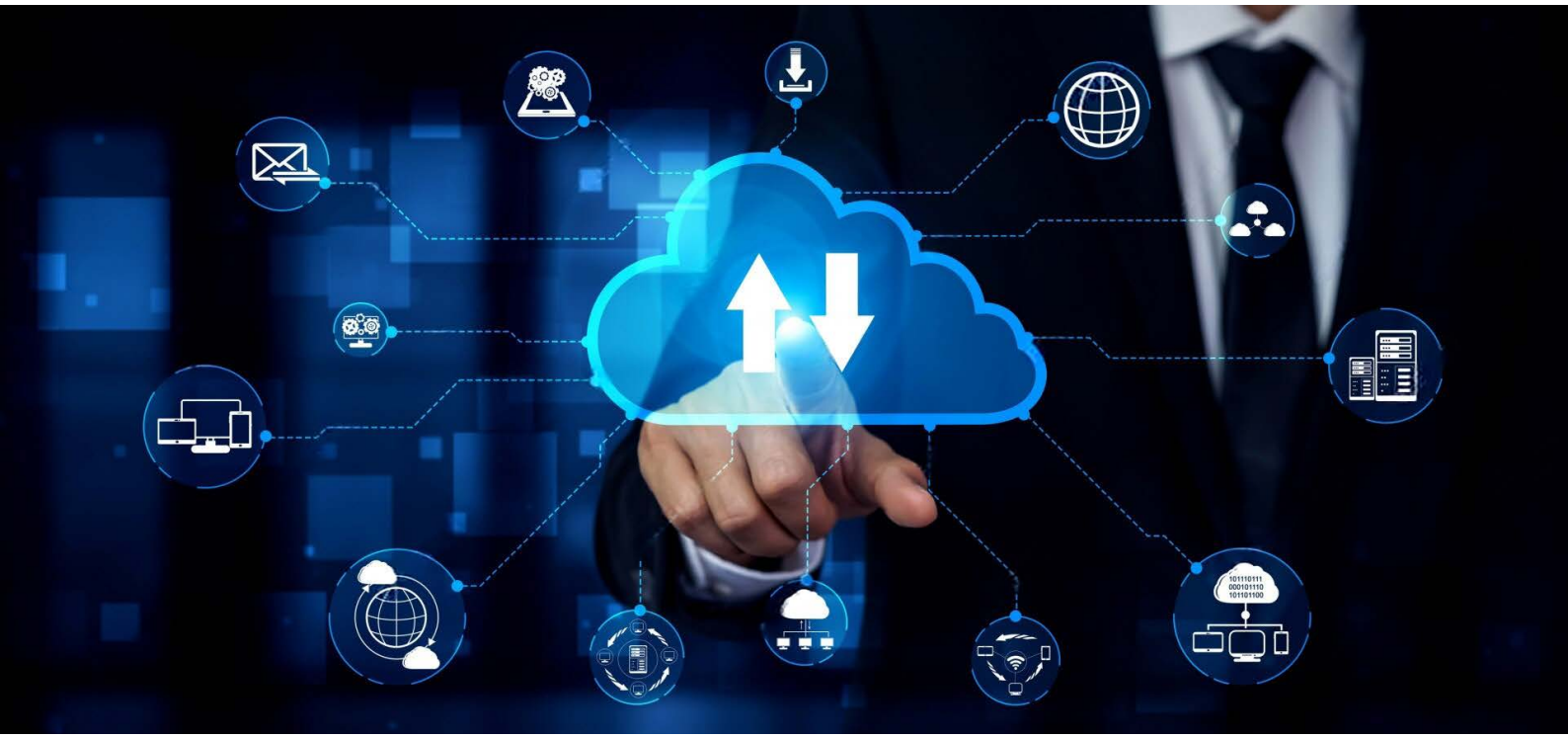
- Best effort in resource allocation
- Prior to transformation, scaling processes were manual, presenting an opportunity to increase efficiency through automation
- Opportunity to establish a process for upgrading the EKS Cluster, as most clusters are approaching the Amazon EKS End of Support



Right Sizing, Instance Scheduler

- High resource utilization
- Resources operating continuously 24/7
- Solutions30 identified opportunities to enhance resource observability and performance telemetry

To address these challenges, Solutions30 embarked on a comprehensive Cloud transformation journey with Stratpoint from initial consultancy to full-scale Cloud optimization, data center exit, and migration to meet evolving business demands. Stratpoint's expertise in AWS Cloud services and proven track record in delivering successful Cloud migrations made them the ideal partner for Solutions30.



Aligning Cloud investments with strategic objectives

Solutions30 identified an opportunity to improve alignment between AWS spend and business value, ensuring long-term cost efficiency. They required a strategic plan to reduce their AWS spend and rebuild their AWS Account utilizing best practices to improve their Cloud efficiency.

Solutions30 selected Stratpoint, an AWS-recommended Partner, following a strategic evaluation of Cloud transformation partners. Stratpoint's Cloud team performed a comprehensive analysis of Solutions30's AWS environment, pinpointing inefficiencies and areas ripe for cost savings.

The Cloud consultancy and assessment presented detailed cost optimization and strategic remediation opportunities. The main action items that needed to be addressed in this phase were Solutions30's lack of the right AWS infrastructure architecture to operate in AWS Landing Zone, and their EKS workloads presented opportunities for reconfiguration to meet evolving performance and scalability goals. The recommendations also included the re-architecture of Solutions30's AWS environment based on best practices.

By identifying underutilized resources and implementing efficient Cloud practices, Solutions30 received a clear roadmap to streamline their Cloud spending, which was crucial in aligning the company's Cloud infrastructure with their financial objectives.

Re-architecting infrastructure for a solid Cloud foundation

Building on the consultancy's success, Solutions30 awarded Stratpoint to be their strategic partner in their Cloud transformation journey. The focus was on establishing a secure and scalable AWS Landing Zone. The engagement involved discovery and design based on Stratpoint's recommendations and building the Landing Zone based on the approved design, adhering to best practices.

To achieve this, the implementation of the Landing Zone included several key deliverables and activities, such as design-and-build workshops focused on AWS Baseline Practices, and an AWS Control Tower, including set up of the account structure, identity and access management, VPC and network structure, and implementation of baseline security measures.

By addressing key drivers such as the need for review and design of application environment separations, review and maintenance of identity and access management, documentation and standardization of network design, and enabling AWS security standards, Stratpoint set the stage for a successful and efficient Cloud transformation journey for Solutions30. During this foundational phase, the first five accounts were set up with a robust, well-architected framework to enhance security, compliance, and operational efficiency.

The Landing Zone implementation was a defining moment in Solutions30's Cloud transformation. Stratpoint's meticulous approach ensured that the new environment was not only secure and compliant but also scalable to meet the client's growing demands. This foundational setup was instrumental in supporting the subsequent migration of their workloads to the Cloud.



Empowering DevOps to reduce monthly Cloud costs by 24.5%

As the project progressed, the scope expanded to include comprehensive DevOps integration and further cost optimization. Stratpoint's platform engineering team worked closely with Solutions30's internal teams, focusing on automating processes, improving deployment speed, and reducing AWS costs.

Implementing CI/CD (continuous integration and continuous deployment) pipelines streamlined the deployment process, allowing faster and more reliable software releases. This automation reduced deployment times for both simple and complex deployments and minimized human errors. Further, leveraging tools like Kubernetes enabled efficient management and scaling of containerized applications, ensuring high availability and resilience. The CI/CD pipelines and Kubernetes orchestration allow developers to focus on coding and innovation rather than operational deployment tasks.

Leveraging open-source software like Grafana for comprehensive monitoring and observability, Karpenter for provisioning of resources and minimizing scaling overhead, and HashiCorp's Vault for secure secret management further optimized the Cloud infrastructure for cost-efficiency and operational excellence, leading to more streamlined workflow, aligning with the company's main goal of driving down AWS costs, which was reduced by 24.5%.

Unified Cloud management and improved security score

Under new CIO leadership, Solutions30 reaffirmed its Cloud-first strategy, with a renewed focus on security and operational resilience. Solutions30 sought to strengthen their Cloud security and expand their DevOps capabilities. Stratpoint's One Cloud initiative merged a team of Cloud and platform engineers to focus on integrating advanced security practices and creating a unified, secure Cloud environment.

Robust security protocols enhanced monitoring capabilities and ensured compliance with industry standards. Security guardrails using SentinelOne were also incorporated to ensure a more robust security posture for Solutions30's Cloud infrastructure. The enhanced security measures provided Solutions30 with a reliable and scalable platform, supporting their growing business needs and laying the groundwork for future security improvements.

To measure the success of the One Cloud initiative, Solutions30 and Stratpoint established key metrics. Gradual cost decreases over four months. The target was also to achieve an AWS security score and a one-week turnaround for infrastructure testing. Stratpoint's One Cloud initiative successfully met and exceeded these targets, achieving a monthly AWS cost reduction of 24.5%, an AWS security score of over 90, and reducing cluster provisioning to one day and application deployment to approximately 5-10 minutes per workload.

A strategic partner in Cloud transformation

Beyond cost savings and technical improvements, Solutions30 gained significant advantages from the engagement with Stratpoint throughout their Cloud transformation journey. Stratpoint's approach provided not just migration and optimization but also long-term operational and financial benefits, including:



24/7 support: Continuous monitoring, troubleshooting, and proactive issue resolution ensured seamless operations and minimized downtime.



Cloud services consolidation: By unifying Cloud services under a single architecture, Solutions30 achieved streamlined operations, better integration across teams, and improved Cloud governance.



Optimized cost structure: Stratpoint's partnership model provided a discounted pricing advantage, leveraging bundled Cloud services for better cost efficiency compared to managing multiple vendors.

These factors made Stratpoint not just a service provider but a strategic Cloud transformation partner, ensuring Solutions30's digital infrastructure remains scalable, secure, and cost-effective.

Meticulous data center exit plan and rapid and efficient mass migration

With a solid, Cloud foundation in place, the migration of Solutions30's on-premise France, Spain, Italy, and Benelux (Belgium, Netherlands, and Luxembourg) systems from their primary data center to the Cloud was a critical phase. The company was operating on-premise with 139 critical prod and non-prod servers, with a large portion of the infrastructure nearing end-of-support. Solutions30 proactively leveraged the refresh window to modernize via Cloud migration. Beyond the high costs, maintaining on-premise infrastructure posed several risks:



Data loss: Migrating to AWS significantly reduced operational risks related to data availability, business continuity, and physical security, maintenance schedules, and inventory data, disrupting operations and affecting client service



Security vulnerabilities: On-prem servers are susceptible to physical threats such as theft or vandalism, particularly in an outdoor retail environment. Without robust security controls, unauthorized access could compromise sensitive data and dealership operations.



Unexpected hardware costs: Server upgrades, repairs, and replacements impose unplanned expenses, creating financial strain and potential disruptions if not managed proactively.



Ongoing maintenance and upkeep: Local servers require continuous updates, patching, and routine maintenance. Neglecting these tasks can lead to performance degradation, software vulnerabilities, and compliance risks.

These risks, combined with the escalating costs, further reinforced Solutions30's decision to transition to a Cloud-first approach with Stratpoint.

As an extension of their Cloud transformation journey with Stratpoint, Solutions30 was planning to exit their systems from the data center and move their on-premise servers to AWS for more cost-efficient maintenance and management. All servers must be migrated before the contract with the existing data center expires by the end of 2024, applications and databases must be set up correctly on AWS without disrupting Solutions30's operations, and the AWS infrastructure must be properly set up and configured.

Stratpoint conducted a comprehensive assessment, planning the data center exit and migration of their France, Spain, Italy, and Benelux (Belgium, Netherlands, and Luxembourg) on-premise servers with an initial proof of concept (POC) involving 13 servers. To ensure a smooth migration process, Stratpoint employs both lift-and-shift and traditional migration approaches. Additionally, they have implemented an AWS Web Application Firewall (WAF) for enhanced security.

For a seamless migration with minimal disruptions, Solutions30 worked with Stratpoint's AWS Mass Migration Team to work on the European timezone to ensure effective collaboration and faster turnaround times for requests and accommodation of troubleshooting calls outside of Solutions30's working hours to avoid impacting their users.

The POC phase, completed between February and April 2024, demonstrated the feasibility and benefits of Cloud migration. The mass migration completed the transfer of the remaining servers in December 2024. This phase has been meticulously planned to ensure minimal disruption to operations and provide a scalable, Cloud-based infrastructure that provides greater flexibility and cost control compared to their previous on-premises infrastructure.



An ongoing Cloud transformation for continuous optimization and growth

Following the successful data center exit and Cloud migration, Solutions30 contracted Stratpoint's Cloud Managed Service for continuous support of their AWS infrastructure and increased workload. This will ensure seamless business operations through 24/7 support and monitoring, proactive maintenance, and regular security assessments. A merged Managed Service contract, extending until 2027, solidifies Solutions30's commitment to their long-term Cloud success with the support of Stratpoint.

> **We've achieved measurable improvements in cost efficiency, deployment speed, and Cloud governance. Stratpoint helped us accelerate our Cloud strategy and strengthen our security framework.**
>
> Michal Niezurawski, CISO | CTO, Solutions30

Through strategic consultancy, robust Cloud solutions, and ongoing support, Solutions30 has not only overcome its initial challenges but also achieved their Cloud objectives and positioned themselves for continued growth, innovation, and success in the digital age. Solutions30's ongoing Cloud transformation journey with Stratpoint demonstrates the power of a strategic partnership in achieving digital transformation goals, addressing critical challenges, and driving significant improvements in cost management, security, and operational efficiency.

About Stratpoint

Stratpoint is the digital acceleration partner for companies ready to transform. With expertise in agile software development, quality assurance, Cloud, data, and AI, it empowers businesses to boost efficiency, improve decision-making, and gain a competitive advantage in today's digital economy.

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