

LowTech GMmBH Technical Transformation Milestone 1

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Abstract In this report, we as consultants from *Awesome Cloud AG* present a technical transformation analysis aimed at modernizing the infrastructure of *LowTech GmbH*, a small to medium-sized enterprise specializing in wooden furniture production. The analysis includes a critical assessment of the current infrastructure, energy consumption calculation for the existing setup followed by a detailed transformation roadmap of future-ready modern infrastructure and explanations of enhancements in scalability, availability, and security compared to current infrastructure. This analysis will serve as a foundational step for subsequent project phases, ensuring that *LowTech GmbH* is well-equipped to meet future requirements and challenges.

This is where the introduction (the prologue or foreword) comes in. The introduction should also be short and concise. The reader should be prepared for the text that follows. Of course, the introduction should also be formulated in an interesting way.

1 Overview of the problem

LowTech GmbH has seven departments with all of their infrastructure hosted on premise. The original partner in charge of the infrastructure has gone out of business

2 Objectives of the technological transformation

The main high level objective is to migrate the current infrastructure into a private-cloud context, meaning that we are going to rent server space and manage only the software components of the technology stack. The hardware maintenance and provisioning will be handled by a third party. We expect to have an improvement in performance just by the fact that we will be using newer/faster technologies, nevertheless, we expect at least parity with the current implementation.

3 Assessment of the current infrastructure

3.1 Current traffic and usage

3.2 Approximate energy consumption

3.3 Scalability, availability and security analysis

4 Client Requirements

- Make the infrastructure more scalable, available and secure
- Modernize the technology, runtime and operation modality
- Perform the migration with a maximum downtime of 4 hours
- Cost reduction
- Maintenance reduction
- High availability of 99.5%

5 Assessment of potential technological components

5.1 Hardware

- Provisioning modern hardware locally
- Renting server space

5.2 Virtualization technologies

5.3 Application components

5.4 Platforms

5.5 Security components

6 Migration to a private-cloud context

To perform a successful migration to a private cloud context we have analyzed the baseline performance of the current system, as well as the technologies used. Based on the client requirements, we have selected technologies and established a roadmap to perform this task.

6.1 Selected technologies

- Virtualization engine
- Storage arrangement
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6.2 Architecture

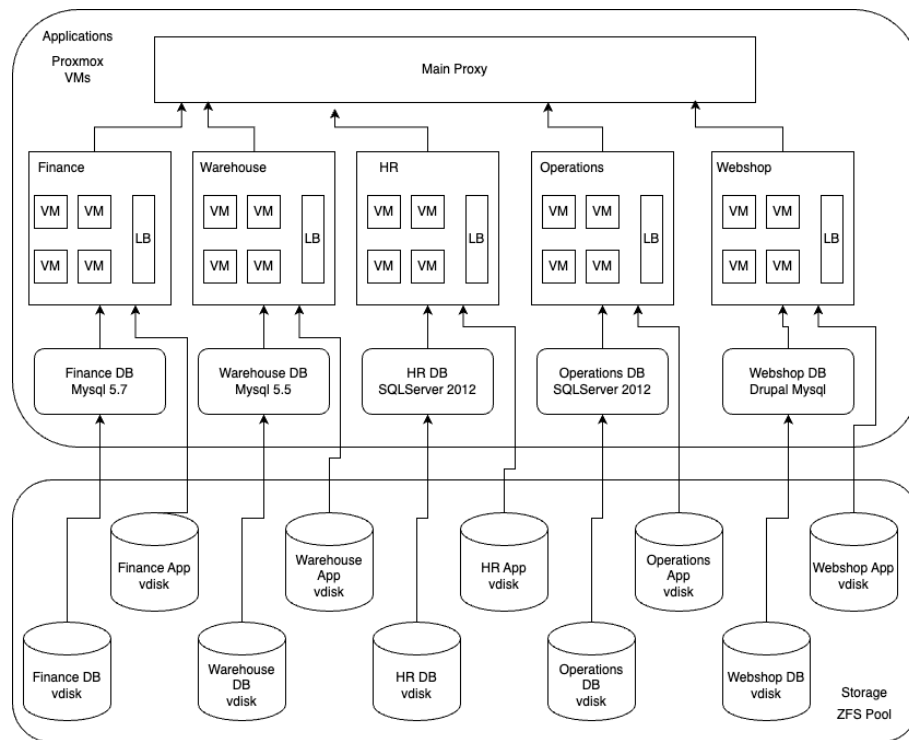


Figure 1. High Level Architecture 1

7 Roadmap

The technological transformation roadmap is divided in four phases:

- Assessment
- Design
- Execution
- Optimization

7.1 Assessment

This is one of the most critical steps, given that we need to establish a baseline of performance, and cost of the current infrastructure. During this stage we are going to execute the following tasks:

- Review the current infrastructure in terms of performance, data requirements, availability and security. Establishing baseline metrics we then have some rough idea of the areas we want to pay attention, and at the end, the total impact that the migration had. We have some rough figures provided by the client, but these are not enough to actually guide development.
- Check the current applications, to define a migration approach, if they can be migrated, changed, or improved in a way that makes the transition process easier. Given the initial requirements, we can assume that the applications are not actively being developed, so modernization is not an approach we can consider at that level.

- Identify the level of effort per department/application/domain to make the migration, this metrics will guide the order of the execution. This is to reduce the impact of the migration in the business operation. Naturally there will be usage patterns more friendly to upgrade and intervention.
- Assess the budget and space constraints for new hardware, or to rent such services. A preliminary review points to renting server space as the most appropriate solution. Given that to achieve the availability metrics required by the customer will require a great investment in provisioning, modernizing and validating the current server location. Not only in technological terms, but also physical security, thermal management, internet bandwidth and energy provisioning.
- Spec the hardware after evaluating the usage pattern and metrics. We want to not only get parity to the current hardware but have space to grow.

7.2 Design

In this step we perform the following tasks:

- Design the new architecture diagram with networking isolation between domains, dividing each department appropriately.
- Document which applications will be migrated to new technologies, or will be ported as is.
- Create document with detailing the dates and approximate duration of the migration each application. This is to be distributed to the organization so operation disruption is minimized
- Prepare contingency plans, and fallbacks to minimize disruption to the business if a migration fails. This could take the form of rollbacks, traffic duplication or A/B testing. Depending on the need of each department and the complexity of each application
- Create all the technical documentation regarding the implementation for the application migrations to new technologies.

7.3 Execution

In this step we perform the following tasks:

- Talk with server space providers, we need to establish a contract and negotiate price and SLOs based on the server requirements
- Gather all the installation information, binaries, licenses and documentation for all applications.
- Configure a development environment to upload all artifacts such as configuration files and container images.
- Create Ansible configuration files for each application, to automate the installation and replication process.
- Develop scripts to automate application functionality and load testing. To determine if the configurations will be on par or better than the current infrastructure.
- Provision and install the private cloud management software, including the networking configuration
- Configure the storage
- Create the virtual machines for the base hosts
- Establish the network links between the different virtual domains
- Install all database servers
- Develop a migration process to replicate the current data into the new database servers.
- Review that data is up to parity with the legacy services
- Create a proxy gateway for the services, so we can redirect the traffic from the old services to the new ones.
- Deploy the new applications into the private cloud
- Check that the data replication is working
- Prepare the load shifting in sequence, and off hours
- Shift load in sequence, starting from the most isolated applications first, then the ones with the most dependencies.
 - Migrate finance and HR, since they are self-contained
 - Migrate operations
 - Migrate customer service
 - Migrate warehouse
 - Migrate webshop
 - Migrate sales

7.4 Optimization

- Instrument and measure the performance of the system and create an assessment report of the migration.
- Create documentation regarding the new deployment process, provisioning and scaling.
- Assess the infrastructure, and check future improvement plans.
- Once we have the virtualized applications, we could start thinking into improving elasticity by enabling either ProxMox autoscaling (Which provides additional resources to VMs on the fly) or instal an orchestrator that will create new virtual machines and load balance them.
- During optimization we need to also allocate time, for training and documentation of the different processes on how to scale, deploy and provision new services.

8 Operation considerations

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