Hewlett Packard Enterprise

Case Study

Trailblazers of the modern era

"It was important for myLoc to find a vendor and a partner who could deliver the latest technology, and help us deliver a cloud that maximizes the flexibility of hardware resources."

– Christoph Herrnkind, CEO, myLoc

myLoc managed IT

Objective

To spur company growth, myLoc needed a cloud-based services approach based on the open source OpenStack platform. One key challenge myLoc faced was finding a partner that offered mature OpenStack capabilities, and the know-how to bridge legacy Web services with a modern cloud approach.

Approach

Teams from myLoc, HPE Helion, HPE Helion OpenStack® Professional Services, and HPE services collaborated to create a new hybrid cloud using HPE Helion OpenStack to streamline service delivery with an automated self-service portal operable with private and public clouds.

IT Matters

- Open source technology is proven as a viable path for building and managing all clouds—private, public, and hybrid
- With a flexible cloud infrastructure, services and applications can be built and delivered faster and cost-efficiently
- Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) is important with IT service providers as the need for scalable, on-demand resources grows

Business Matters

- Improved business technology model creates cost-efficiencies that can be passed on to customers
- Better use of IT resources increases efficiency and lowers costs
- Enhanced hybrid cloud infrastructure helps meet changing customer needs and opens doors to new business opportunities

Listen to myLoc executives speak about their plans for the future that include cutting-edge, open source cloud technology, and you get the sense that these are pioneers of the digital age. The only thing they lacked was a partner to share in their vision. They found that partner in Hewlett Packard Enterprise.

Open source is not a mere option: it's in your DNA

For many enterprises today, the mention of open source conjures up life in a parallel universe. "It's just not part of our world, yet," say the skeptics and naysayers. But not so say the executives of German-based myLoc managed IT AG, a provider of managed services including co-location, managed hosting, data center, and network services. For well over three years, myLoc has been busy transforming its legacy systems and operations into the once less traveled road of the open source OpenStack cloud platform.

"We moved to OpenStack well over three years ago," says myLoc CEO Christoph Herrnkind, "and we haven't looked back. Our decision has truly impacted our business favorably." myLoc's OpenStack platform is the backbone for myLoc's cloud-based delivery of a Ceph workload and service automation environment. Herrnkind adds, "Customer demands change constantly, and to stay competitive, you need a technology base that's flexible enough to meet increasingly more stringent customer requirements. And you need a business technology model that breeds cost-efficiencies that can be passed on to customers."

myLoc is an active participant in the OpenStack Foundation community and is a firm believer in a pure OpenStack solution. Most recently, myLoc decided to push the bounds of its OpenStack platform even further. myLoc honed in on improving the customer experience with greater flexibility, scalability, and security of its cloud services delivery. Refining the way its virtual IT services could be delivered through a secure, automated self-service portal was a key requirement. Customers obtain greater control and affordability of the services they need, when they need them, and myLoc garners a more competitive stance in the marketplace. From a technical aspect, it boiled down to an all-encompassing, well-defined hybrid cloud strategy that served both customer needs, as well as its own.

Building the Golden Gate to the hybrid cloud

As cloud computing has evolved, so have the options available to myLoc customers. Today, customers use a combination of myLoc Web services, private cloud services, and public cloud services from such providers as Amazon Web Services (AWS). Choice of service offerings, value, and transparency are at least three important factors to consider when purchasing data center and network services.

"Infrastructure as a Service is a critical focus for our business," says Herrnkind, "It's not only the individual IT services in our portfolio that are important, but when you look at where cloud computing is headed, customers will be able to rent their entire infrastructure. That's a tremendous opportunity for us."

Turning vision into reality requires challenging decisions. myLoc had to decide if it should branch out to other members of the OpenStack community. The significant factor for myLoc was finding a soul mate that shared a common vision, offered elite technology, and was a partner/collaborator that could be trusted.

Case study
myLoc

Industry
Technology—managed IT service provider

Customer at a Glance

HPE Helion Cloud solution
- Hybrid cloud

Hardware
- HPE ProLiant DL360 Gen9 Servers, Intel® Xeon® Processor E5 v3 (for compute nodes)
- HPE ProLiant DL380 Gen9 Servers (for Ceph Storage nodes)
- HPE 5900AF-48XG-4QSFP+ Switches

Software
- HPE Helion OpenStack
- Kernel-based Virtual Machine (KVM) hypervisor
- SSD with Ceph Block Storage
- Object storage based on HPE Helion Content Depot and Acronis Access and Acronis Backup

Services
- HPE Helion OpenStack Professional Services
- HPE services

"Our engineering team did extensive research about whether to continue with the native OpenStack path and specifically with the OpenStack Manila file share service or go with HPE Helion," says myLoc CTO Dennis Thomas. "We decided to go with HPE Helion OpenStack because of its proven product quality and maturity and excellent commercial support."

Collaboration goes beyond the clouds

After making the decision to go with HPE Helion OpenStack, HPE services teams quickly jumped into action. They set up the operating systems and configured the HPE Helion OpenStack base to HPE ProLiant DL360 and DL380 Gen9 Servers as HPE offered the latest, high-quality performance. HPE services and HPE Helion OpenStack Professional Services teams also created the customizations needed to facilitate the integration of HPE Helion OpenStack with myLoc's existing Web hosting service portfolio. Transforming its legacy applications and services to become cloud ready not only preserved its investment, but also provided an upgrade in service to its customers.

When the new OpenStack compute platform is fully completed, the myLoc and HPE Helion partnership will not end. The teams are looking beyond to expand their joint capabilities to include additional OpenStack SWIFT nodes (embedded Content Depot) for a plain SWIFT API-based offering as well as accommodate a secure front end with Dropbox-like file sharing features from a third-party. Future plans call for the use of HPE Helion Development Platform and HPE Helion CloudSystem.

"An interesting outcome for us is now customers can build their own hybrid cloud with our portal," says CEO Herrnkind. "With our technical solution based on the HPE Helion OpenStack platform, we can fulfill the needs of our customers to comfortably traverse both private and public clouds."

Learn more at

Cloud Computing – HPE Helion

HPE Helion OpenStack

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