

Tech Summit Challenge Scenario

Customer scenario

Rugged Rider Auto, an affiliate of Uptick Capital, has acquired a majority equity stake in Overland Motor Group, which operates more than 25 dealerships and related businesses in Seattle, Denver, Salt Lake, and Northern California. The purchase is expected to generate synergies that can help Uptick Capital continue to grow its automotive retail footprint, as well as streamline retail operations, inventory, and optimize business management across all of its dealerships.

Uptick forecasts their business will scale by 1 new dealership per month. Each new dealership will require its own instance of the central parts ordering application's front-end consisting of NGNX and HAProxy Load Balancers. The Application layer will share the same Back-end Database.

Overland Motor Group attempted to deploy Horizon View but failed to justify a roll out to the entire business. Rugged Rider Auto has deployed Citrix XenDesktop and wants to leverage the gold image built by the team at Overland. With the addition of each new dealership they anticipate onboarding 5x new users requiring non-persistent desktops and 2x new users requiring a full clone persistent desktop.

As part of the acquisition, Uptick Capital completed an audit of their IT operations and determined they'll need to consolidate and modernize their antiquated data center operations to remain solvent. Uptick's CIO and her staff have put together a comprehensive plan to reduce CAPEX and OPEX by shutting down and consolidating under-performing infrastructure, reduce licensing costs, simplify and streamline application development and deployments, and optimize data center operations by leveraging more automation. The plan also requires adjustments in the company's balance sheet to reflect a +70% TCO reduction, potentially saving Uptick and its investors millions of dollars annually.

Goals

- Automate the migration and consolidation of back-end databases (i.e. automate both the migration and ETL using Xtract and scripts).
- Architect and expedite standing up and configuring infrastructure to support continuous integration and deployment of applications.
- Containerize applications to streamline the scale-out of online ordering workloads.
- Manage and monitor container deployments.
- Orchestration, provisioning, and automation of infrastructure and applications.
- Demonstrate consistent performance under failure conditions.
- Show TCO reduction, in combination with CAPEX and OPEX spend.
- Demonstrate up-stack integration with 3rd platform management stack using REST API's
- Automate the provisioning and orchestration of Citrix Desktops.
- Architect for Disaster Recovery and Data Protection for central and remote sites.



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Required Capabilities

Required Capability	Problems / Issues	
Overland Motor Group - Migrate SQL Server database and VM's with Uptick IT resources	The cost and overhead to maintain additional installations of the data w/o synchronization is causing issues when generating reports for Inventory, AP, AR, and parts ordering.	
Back-end databases must run on Windows Server 2012 R2, using SQL Server instance	Currently the data is sourced from MSSQL. Uptick will continue to use this technology but has aspirations to eliminate license fees and migrate their data to an OSS database instance(s).	
CentOS Application Server + HA Proxy needs to scale during peak hours.	Scaling the parts application is slow and needs a way to scale quickly to meet SLA's.	
Containerize Application Stack Deploy, manage, and scale-out containers	Uptick would like to move to a container model. Uptick will require instrumentation to manage containers.	
Create a CI/CD pipeline between build and source repository. Repository check-ins should trigger auto-build & deployment	A need to streamline application development and move to production is highly desirable.	
Automate monitoring with existing 3 rd platform	3 rd platform monitoring tools are highly desired.	
Performance must be demonstrable under fail-over conditions (node loss) as a proofpoint.	Performance and uptime is fundamental to meeting their SLAs.	
Orchestration and provisioning of Infrastructure and Applications.	Simplification and automation of IT infrastructure is once of Uptick's top goals.	
Orchestration, Config + Mgmt. Extend to Multiple Clouds - AWS	Uptick's vision is to secure highly sensitive business data and support predictive workloads on-prem, and moving unpredictable, ephemeral workloads offprem to make better use of their infrastructure.	
Backup/DR/Data protection - Lab	Because they're publicly traded, they'll require data protection, with cold archives of +3 years.	
File Services	User data currently stored locally or across multiple NAS solutions. Currently no solution for central storage of application logs.	
Proposal: Generate report on overall CAPEX and OPEX costs - need to show TCO over next 3 years	Uptick CIO is pressured to transform their data center operations into a profitable business unit.	
Citrix XenDesktop workload	Need to migrate existing Overland image. Desire to integrate desktop provisioning into same system as IT application provisioning.	



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Point Matrix for Labs

	Technology	Status	Points
Tools	XTRACT	Required	500
	XRAY	Required	500
	SSP	Required	500
	AHV	Required	500
	Calm	Required	500
	REST	Optional	200
Config	Ansible	Optional	200
	Puppet	Optional	200
	Chef	Optional	200
Cloud	AWS	Optional	500
	OpenStack	Optional	500
	Google	Optional	500
	Azure	Optional	500
Monitor	Nagios	Optional	200
Database	MS SQL Server	Required	500
	Postgres SQL	Optional	200
	MySQL	Optional	200
Data	HYCU	Optional	500
Protection	DR/AHV	Optional	
Microservice	Kubernetes (K8s)	Optional	500
	Docker	Optional	200
	Docker Hub (Docker Cloud)	Optional	200
	Docker Swarm	Optional	200
	Packer	Optional	200
Develop	Git/GitHub	Required	500
	Jenkins	Optional	200