PROJECT SUMMARY

Great Benefits is a large commercial health benefits company that has just acquired Health Management, another commercial health benefits company. Prior to the merger, Great Benefits had operations in 5 states in the United States. Their current payment processing systems run on IBM mainframes located in 5 data centers, one for each state. Health Management had operations in 3 states and Oracle is used as the application's data repository. Health Management currently operates 3 data centers. Great Benefits customer service representatives use a custom grown CRM application that was developed 5 years ago, whereas Health Management uses Oracle Business Suite. In order to maximize the profitability of the merger, Great Benefits would like to consolidate the IT operations of the two organizations. They have engaged Group 11 to come up with an approach, strategy, and roadmap for consolidating the IT operations.

After analyzing the business and IT model of Great Benefits and Health Management, and considering their vision we find that cloud storage would be the ideal solution. Based on our research, cost and security are the primary factors, as we have private clouds available in the market to store sensitive data, at low cost. Cloud storage minimizes consumption of network bandwidth, which could be utilized for other essential business unit. Further, as the company keeps growing, focusing on more acquisitions, cloud's ability to scale on demand offers the freedom of expanding the cloud without affecting current business operations. It also eases the integration of diverse architectures used by different mergers resulting in reduced deployment time. Cloud storage not only solves the situation in hand but also proves to be useful for the future of Great Benefits.

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