On the way to the hybrid cloud

Continental strengthens its innovative ability with a modern sourcing concept for SAP

“We’ve had good experiences with the private cloud. Now we’re taking the next step. I can well imagine getting a lot of SAP applications from the public cloud in a few years.”

Christian Eigler, Corporate CIO of Continental AG

Continental AG is one of the world’s largest automotive suppliers, with sales of €44.4 billion and more than 244,000 employees at 544 locations in 60 countries. Today, the DAX-listed company offers much more than just tires or other rubber products – its technologies and services now help to enable automated driving, for example. Continental does not only cater to the automotive industry, but is also involved in a wide range of other sectors such as agriculture and forestry, the food industry, and transport and logistics. Innovation is part of its corporate DNA. Constant change is where Continental sees its greatest opportunities.

At a glance

Innovation is the foundation of success. Continental is a technology company that provides technical solutions and products for a variety of industries. Areas of focus include, among others, the automated driving of cars and rail vehicles. Continental is increasing its innovative capability by making the jump to the hybrid cloud. This will give the company a choice of where to operate its SAP systems – as classic hosting, in the private cloud, or in the Azure public cloud.

- Improved cooperation with partners
- Freedom to choose the operating platform
- High scalability
- Reliable continuous operation
The challenge

Today, agility and cooperation with partners play an important role for technology groups when they want to help shape new markets. This is especially true in highly competitive market environments like automated driving. Innovation is one of Continental’s central maxims: the company is aiming to open up new business areas and profit from change. For this to be successful, the IT platforms have to keep up. The public cloud is an essential component that gives companies a head start in agility. But should it really completely replace the existing private cloud systems?

Solution

Continental has chosen a hybrid cloud strategy to provide the best platform for its SAP systems in each case: the advantages of the private cloud or those of the public cloud, in which new SAP systems can be deployed in minutes and can scale to extreme degrees. Public cloud systems can be switched off just as quickly to achieve cost advantages. T-Systems has operated around 500 SAP systems for Continental since 2009. Until now, these were situated in a private cloud, but parts of them are now successively being moved to Microsoft’s Azure cloud. This results in a hybrid cloud landscape. By operating from a single source across the various platforms, Continental maintains uniform operating processes. This also means consistently high security standards. Internationally unified IT is becoming a reality.

Customer benefits

Continental decided on the best of both worlds: stability and reliability as well as dynamism for innovation. As an international standard, Azure is highly suited to working together with external partners on innovation projects. Large amounts of data no longer have to be sent. The hybrid cloud approach allows Continental to strengthen its capacity for innovation and gain a high level of flexibility. By adding the public cloud to the sourcing mix, the Hanover company can benefit from increased scalability and rapidly deploy new services and features.

Other advantages:
- Operation from a single source: T-Systems manages all platforms
- Freedom of choice for Continental: Dynamic use of the appropriate platform for the respective business requirements
- Accelerated development reduces time to market
- Use of public cloud features

Contact

T-Systems International GmbH
Hahnstraße 43d
60528 Frankfurt am Main
Email: referenzen@t-systems.com
Internet: www.t-systems.com

Published by

T-Systems International GmbH
Marketing
Hahnstrasse 43d
60528 Frankfurt am Main, Germany