Advanced AWS Managed Cloud Services for LucaNet AG

Case Study

Executive summary

LucaNet AG provides consultancy and software products for financial planning, consolidation, and controlling. They also develop their own software for use in the financial sector. These software products are deployed for a range of clients worldwide.

LucaNet became a T-Systems client for AWS Managed Cloud Services in 2020. Initially the goal was to move their services to the cloud and attain global reach for their financial software using T-Systems Managed Cloud Services. This was achieved in 2021 in collaboration with T-Systems, a certified AWS Premier Tier Partner.

As of 2022 LucaNet forged a new ambitious goal. Going beyond their initial strategic goal, which was to move their financial software to the cloud and enable customers to access this software globally, they now aimed to start scaling operations while optimizing their costs, leveraging the services provided within the T-Systems AWS Managed Cloud (Advanced) Services (MCS) package.

The challenge

LucaNet's move to the cloud reaped substantial business growth rewards from 2021 onwards.

They extended their service reach and expanded their customer base. This had an impact on their cloud capacity requirements. They now needed to expand their cloud infrastructure. However, they also wanted to see if they could optimize their cloud compute costs while maintaining or improving their software service performance. This was their core challenge that they wished to address.

About the Customer

Founded in 1999, LucaNet AG has been providing software and consulting to support its customers with financial consolidation, planning, reporting and analysis for more than 15 years. Beyond offering Financial Performance Management (FPM) software for accounting, the company also provides comprehensive training and expert consulting to ensure their customers get the most out of our tools.

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> Together with T-Systems' highly experienced AWS cloud consultants, we managed to expand our cloud infrastructure: we added more compute instances but at the same time we opted for a more cost-effective variant, all the while maintaining a secure, stable, and highly available cloud environment setup using the T-Systems (Advanced) Managed Cloud Service (MCS).
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> *- Simon Kaminski, Senior IT-System Administrator – Operations*

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The solution

In order to increase capacity LucaNet needed to invest in more compute instances from the AWS cloud. These cloud compute instances in AWS come in varying performance types.

Architecture: Automated CI/CD

The cloud computing environment for LucaNet consists of a number of cloud computing instances with optional, deployable RDS and IPSec VPN components. Deployment configuration is effectively automated using as a base the configuration parameters provided by the customer. These parameters are imported into Terraform and saved as new Terraform templates, which can then be automatically deployed regularly via the continuous integration and continuous deployment (CI/CD) pipeline. Common human errors are mitigated by utilizing automated tests that have been meticulously designed by highly qualified, T-Systems AWS experts as part of the set of services within the advanced T-Systems MCS. A consistent and auditable infrastructure environment is thus ensured with all the AWS components automated for quick deployments.
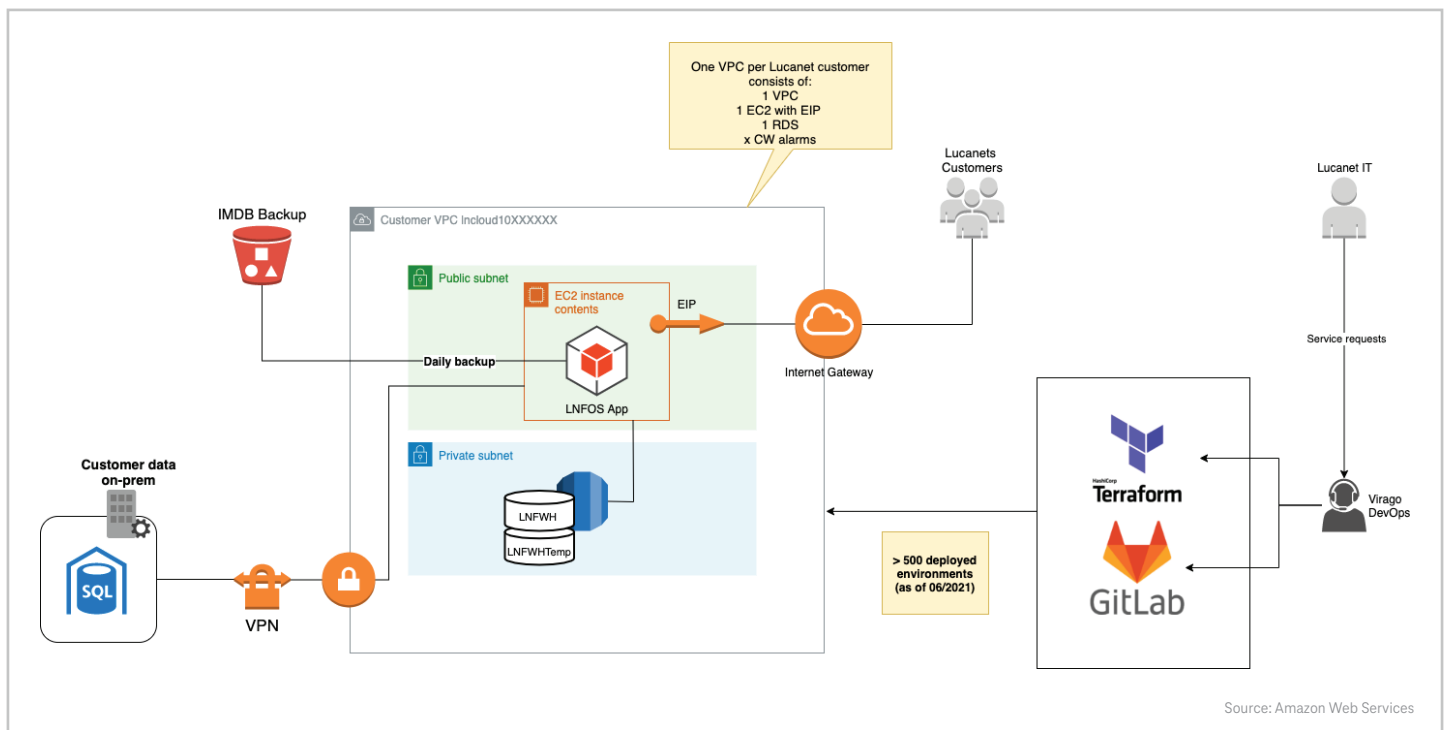

Figure 1 Infrastructure as Code Setup for CI/CD

In the LucaNet customer onboarding scenario, each LucaNet customer gets a VPC, the appropriate AWS compute Reserved Instances to reduce costs. Their cloud-based software product, LNCLOUD 2.0 product is deployed and hosted on the AWS Cloud in an account provided by T-Systems. The account is provisioned with the standard T-Systems security baseline along with additional "Managed Cloud" components to ensure that the software runs on a highly secured and continuously monitored infrastructure.

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Why T-Systems?

Collaboration starts with choosing the right services and tools from the AWS universe. T-Systems has a proven track record of delivering solutions complying with challenging regulatory guidelines and requirements while preserving the agility of the public cloud. This is especially important considering that LucaNet is a company that operates in the financial sector, an area which is highly scrutinized by regulatory bodies. T-Systems offers comprehensive Cloud security consulting as well as engineering services for AWS across the entire application stack.

Customer benefits

Between January 2022 and October 2022, within the space of 10 months LucaNet's AWS MCS service consumption increased by approximately 50% in response to a rapid acceleration in business growth on their part. Moving to the AWS cloud helped them provide their software services globally, which was one of the primary motivations that led them initially to T-Systems. Subsequently reducing their costs by migrating their customers on to a more cost effective yet robust cloud computing infrastructure was another sound reason for them to continue to utilize T-Systems (Advanced) MCS.

About T-Systems

T-Systems is a global IT services and consulting company. The company has a global infrastructure consisting of data centers and networks. As an AWS Premier Tier service provider with over 870 certified experts who provide strategic advice and are aware of all the newest AWS services on offer.

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