LEGAL SOFTWARE

six nines
Cloud Responsibly™

MIGRATING WINDOWS WORKLOADS TO AWS

OVERVIEW

Six Nines helped Zola Suite, a Zola Media company that provides cloud-based legal practice management software, migrate its legacy Windows applications and CRM infrastructure to Amazon Web Services (AWS).

CHALLENGES

As an all-in-one SaaS CRM solution, Zola Suite offers case management capabilities, an email system, a billing and accounting system as well as reports and analytics. The company experienced significant growth through their customer base, putting significant strain on their on-premises environment. Being a SaaS product, Zola Suite requires 24 x 7 uptime, so Zola Media needed a highly redundant, secure environment in order to meet their customers' expectations while avoiding significant upfront capital expenditures.

SOLUTION

As an AWS Partner Network (APN) Premier Consulting Partner and holder of the AWS Microsoft Workloads Competency, Six Nines was able to employ best practices honed over a decade of experience to successfully architect and migrate Zola Suite to a highly scalable cloud-based environment. By splitting out the Presentation, Application and Data Layers, Six Nines could select the optimized AWS instance that best suited each workload. Additionally, Zola Media was able to reduce their costs of running systems locally which allowed their engineering team to focus on enhancing the product instead of spending time with hardware. In addition, they were able to transition from a CAPEX cost model to an OPEX cost model that aligned better with their SaaS model. The Zola Media application utilizes a Three-Layered Services Application running the Microsoft Windows Operating System. This provides isolation of services for both security and performance. The entire environment resides in a Virtual Private Cloud (VPC) to improve security in addition to Security Groups, Role-based permissions and custom Identity and Access Management (IAM) rules. Behind an ELB, the Presentation Layer, or Web Tier, utilizes ASP.NET and IIS to provide browser-based interaction. While on a separate subnet, the Business Layer, or Application Server, was implemented using the .NET framework. The isolated Data Layer utilizes the relational database Microsoft SQL (MSSQL).

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AWS SERVICES USED

- Amazon Virtual Private Cloud (Amazon VPC)
- AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM)
- Network Address Translation (NAT) Gateway
- AWS Elastic Load Balancing (ELB)
- Windows on EC2
- Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (Amazon EC2)
- Amazon Simple Storage Service (Amazon S3)
- Flow Logs

RESULTS

Six Nines successfully performed a full turnkey migration of Zola's on-premises CRM infrastructure to AWS. The migration enabled Zola Suite to scale quickly and dynamically by utilizing EC2's elastic features, including Elastic Load Balancing (ELB) and Amazon's redundant object storage offering, S3. Zola Media is now able to onboard more customers significantly faster than they could by using their in-house solution. Also, on AWS, Zola can quickly scale their production stack as dynamically as their workloads scale. For example, Zola Media can now easily increase their storage footprint and compute footprint utilizing AWS' highly scalable features. Zola Media was so pleased with the results, they contracted Six Nines to further enhance the application, including refactoring the Zola Suite environment to increase availability and scalability while reducing cost.

aws partner network

Premier
Consulting Partner

DevOps Competency

Microsoft Workloads Competency

Solution Provider

WHY SIX NINES?

Six Nines IT is an AWS Partner Network (APN) Premier Consulting Partner and AWS Solution Provider specializing in helping businesses migrate to the cloud responsibly. A member of the APN since its inception, Six Nines has successfully migrated hundreds of customers across all industries to the cloud and offers an unparalleled combination of speed, agility, experience, and proprietary solutions to deliver accelerated solutions and a rapid time-to-value. The Oakland-based company combines old-school, on-premises IT roots together with deep expertise and a laser focus on all things AWS – including a core concentration on High Performance Computing and Microsoft Workloads (AWS Microsoft Workload Competency and AWS DevOps Competency) – to deliver bespoke solutions that are individually tailored to meet customers' unique needs throughout the cloud lifecycle.

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