Federal agencies show big shift in cloud disruption

As Federal agencies shift to the Cloud Smart policy, which gears toward energizing agencies that have lagged in making the transition, migrating their workloads to the cloud has been anything but smooth sailing.

Challenge

The U.S. cloud computing economy tripled in size from 2002 to 2017 and added $214 billion to the U.S. gross domestic product in 2017, according to an Internet Association (IA) report released in March.

While Federal government cloud spending is expected to continue to grow through 2021, it's no surprise that cloud migration in the government remains a gradual process that requires a strategic step-by-step approach. One of the few organizations who took the challenge head-on, comprised of more than 260 branch locations across the country, faced the same challenges as it made the dash towards consolidation.

Kicking off in December 2014, the organization felt a desperate rush to consolidate and unify under one platform to provide consistent backup services for recovery, retention time, and encryption across its enterprise. Procurement took nearly two years – and four years later, there's two more years of deployment and two large data centers to go.

Up against many hurdles, the organization's cloud and data migration wasn't just about improving operations, it was also about complying with the administration's cloud policies and mandates like the Federal IT Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA). Shown in the seventh FITARA scorecard, released in December 2018, the organization needs to see improvements in Data Center Optimization Initiative (DCOI) and Modernizing Government Technology (MGT) Act to get the A grade every CIO wants to take home to the top of their agency hierarchy." Commvault solutions will continue to help them get there.

This organization strives to provide the highest standard of compassion, commitment, excellence, professionalism, integrity, accountability, and stewardship. It needed help to protect its data and to adhere to its overarching vision. Traditionally, its data has lived in co-located datacenters – with a 45-day retention back-up, and ability to have off-site copy for at least 90 days, and up to seven years. It needed to move all this to the cloud to continue to deliver its mission promise to consumers.

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> Federal agency employee

Solution

Ultimately, the organization settled on Commvault Complete™ Backup & Recovery to accommodate its increasingly complicated needs. It's a "single pane of glass for reporting on the entire enterprise — something we've never had before. It makes everyone's lives so much simpler," the organization said in an interview with MeriTalk. "We like working with Commvault because traditionally, you have to buy several years' worth of capacity up-front for on-premise solutions, but with Commvault and cloud migration, you can pay as you go."

The net benefits were clear: It reduced the organization's on-premise hardware footprint, provided a more holistic overview of its data, and is expediting the organization's migration to the cloud. Commvault solutions have helped with its cloud and data migration – as well as helping protect sensitive data along the way.

The organization has now touched all facilities and data sets at this point, expanded new licensing to accommodate new data sets, and expects it to be smooth sailing for the last two data sets left to migrate. Today, the organization is using Commvault to manage 3+ petabytes of data.

Result

Migrating workloads to the cloud requires a step-by-step process, in which the demand pattern of an application as well as key metrics such as cost, CPU performance, connectivity, security, storage, and scalability requirements, are critical for success. And it all begins with picking the right solution to match the required workload. Control sets like Commvault Complete Backup & Recovery have helped agencies confidently leverage cloud migration successfully, securely, and in a timely manner.

To learn more, visit **commvault.com/government >**

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