



HOSTING Migrates Centage's Budget Maestro Application to a Scalable AWS Environment to Support Market Expansion Plans

Customer Background

Founded in 2001 and headquartered in Natick, MA, Centage Corporation is the world leader in cloud-based budgeting and planning software solutions for small- to medium-size organizations. Its flagship product, Budget Maestro[®], is an easy-to-use, scalable, cloud-based budgeting and forecasting solution that eliminates the time-consuming and error-prone activities associated with using spreadsheets. Designed to support a comprehensive Smart Budgets approach to corporate planning, Budget Maestro offers built-in financial and business logic which allows users to create and update budgets and forecasts quickly and accurately.

Customer Challenge

Enjoying a third consecutive year of double-digit revenue growth, Centage Corporation added 2,000 new users to their Budget Maestro portfolio in 2016, while increasing headcount by 40 percent and expanding into new office space.

Originally, Budget Maestro was designed to run on dedicated servers but then moved to a streaming application some years later. Given the extreme growth Centage was experiencing, the organization needed to migrate the application to a cloud environment that could scale to more easily manage their business growth in both the U.S. and other countries and better service their customers.

Mid-size and enterprise organizations are rapidly moving towards cloud-based solutions as they seek to maximize IT resources across the business and Centage was no exception. Having been a HOSTING customer for some time, Centage approached HOSTING for assistance in migrating their application to Amazon Web Services (AWS). With cloud-based Budget Maestro, their customers could leverage timely, agile, and flexible budgeting and forecasting capabilities from anywhere, at any time, without the need for IT involvement.

AWS Solution for Centage

Centage had a rough idea of what they needed since the application was already in a HOSTING environment. However, they ran into several challenges and needed help. Centage was facing a sprawling infrastructure and spiraling costs, as well as inconsistencies in deployment, configuration, and security policies. As Centage environments were outside of AWS, they needed a simple way to manage, monitor, and pay for their infrastructure.



Summary of Services Used for Centage

- AWS CloudFormation
- AWS VPC
- AWS Direct Connect
- AWS EC2
- AWS Lambda
- AWS Elastic Load Balancing
- MongoDB
- Amazon CloudWatch

For the initial build, Centage's requirements included an Apache Tomcat web tier and a MongoDB database tier (NoSQL). HOSTING worked with Centage to collect these and other requirements and created an agreed-upon reference architecture that worked with all the infrastructure pieces.

HOSTING designed, built, and implemented an auto-scaling, security-focused design for their new application. This environment was designed entirely as code using AWS Cloud Formation and was implemented to be an auto-scaling, secure application.

With HOSTING's Monitoring Insights platform provided by ScienceLogic, Centage can now monitor and view their infrastructure from a single pane of glass. The entire environment is secured by Alert Logic and is connected back to their Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) environment via a Direct Connect link with a Virtual Private Network (VPN) fallback.

Today, HOSTING provides Centage with full managed services for their entire stack, starting with the infrastructure and covering Tomcat and MongoDB.

Results/Benefits

The design HOSTING implemented will allow Centage to easily add customers on the fly in a matter of minutes versus the 40-plus hours it took to manually add a customer when the application was in the SaaS environment. In addition, Centage has plans to expand globally and the AWS environment provides the flexible, scalable architecture they need to support this growth.

Summary

In July 2017, Centage moved their production workload over to the AWS model and are offering the new platform to new customers. Centage also plans to use AWS and make their application available in Canada. In the meantime, Centage continues to use HOSTING'S managed services to support their infrastructure, perform routine tasks, and continue to enhance the application.