

Aflac drives their digital transformation with the power of SAP on AWS

Client profile

Aflac Incorporated (NYSE: AFL) is a Fortune 500 company helping provide protection to more than 50 million people through its subsidiaries in Japan and the U.S., where it is a leading supplemental insurer by paying cash fast when policyholders get sick or injured.

Which technologies?

- Amazon CloudTrail
- Amazon S3
- AWS Backint Agent
- Amazon S3 Glacier

Which services?

- Managed Public Cloud
- Cloud Migration Services

Which partners?

- AWS
- SAP



“

The initiative to move our SAP HANA-based platform to AWS in partnership with NTT was a very smooth project that ran on time and on budget. Our experience in AWS, beyond saving us significant hosting costs, has been very stable and an excellent experience.

Pete Kelso, SVP, Chief IT Officer, Financial Transformation, Aflac

Summary

Aflac, a Fortune 500 voluntary insurance company, migrated SAP Business Warehouse (BW) and SAP Business Planning and Consolidation (BPC) to Amazon Web Services (AWS) to improve the quality of their SAP performance while minimizing impact to internal teams and reducing costs.

As a trusted name in insurance, Aflac needed to be able to work without disruption as they moved SAP BW and SAP BPC to the AWS Cloud. The decision to move to AWS was driven by the company's ongoing digital transformation initiatives, where traditionally paper processes were moved to digital ones, helping reduce costs and improve performance.

Business need

Reliable SAP solutions for a dependable company

To assist with the migration of their SAP BW and BPC environments to AWS, the business tapped SAP specialist provider and AWS SAP Competency Partner NTT. NTT brought a commitment to customer service that provided Aflac 24/7 support and a personalized contact to help them with any questions or concerns.

Since NTT had handled a move of this complexity before, they were able to create a comprehensive plan that protected the daily operations of Aflac's business while moving them to a more secure, robust SAP hosting solution. With around the clock support, Aflac was protected from disruptions to service and was able to move quickly without impacting internal teams.

Solution

Migration without interruptions

Together, AWS and NTT were able to migrate this portion of Aflac's SAP HANA environment in just five months. The combined experience of AWS and NTT made the process seamless, with internal teams able to continue with their regular work during the migration.

In addition to costs and cloud expertise, Aflac's experience with using AWS Backint Agent was a motivator for choosing AWS. This powerful SAP-certified backup and restore solution for SAP HANA workloads, combined with Amazon Simple Storage Solution (Amazon S3), was a key differentiator for their transition from on-premises to the cloud.

Outcomes

Real-time visibility means greater control over service costs

With the migration to AWS, Aflac was able to gain greater visibility into their SAP estate and infrastructure. The migration to AWS saved over 30% from their previous hosting solution, reducing overall costs while allowing Aflac to take advantage of AWS services like Amazon CloudTrail, for tracking user activity and API usage, and Amazon Route 53 cloud Domain Name System (DNS) web service.

Using AWS for SAP BW and BPC gave Aflac a greater sense of connection between their internal teams and their SAP estate. Aflac has greater insight into the workings of their SAP environment and can make real-time adjustments to their Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (Amazon EC2) instances that can impact costs and performance for the better, saving them an additional 5%. This transparency gave Aflac metrics and consumption data that they previously did not have. While Aflac expected to save with AWS, the combined efficiency and powerful integration tools enabled them to exceed their savings expectations.

More Robust Cybersecurity and Archiving

Once Aflac completed this migration project, they have been able to implement stronger cybersecurity measures and utilized solutions like Amazon S3 Glacier to provide them with the purpose-built data archiving they need to access archive data quickly and scale easily. With their SAP BW and BPC environments migrated to AWS, they can continue on their digital transformation path.