SPEEDYRAILS

How Teamer scales on demand and optimizes costs with Speedyrails Managed AWS service

CASE STUDY

"Because of Speedyrails' expertise in moving to AWS, we went straight into a Cloud Native solution, which is great. AWS scales up and down automatically, so we're not locked into a fixed cost every month."

Jon Milsom,
CTO, Pitchero and Teamer

teamer

The Solution

Managed AWS

- Managed EKS
- Auto-scaling and redundancy.
- Disaster recovery

Applications Migration

- Cloud Native migration (instead of a more costly "lift and shift" approach)
- Design and implementation of CI/CD pipelines

Day-2 Operations

- Management of the AWS infrastructure
- Change management
- 24x7 monitoring
- Proactive recommendations to continue improving efficiency

The Client

TEAMER, PART OF THE PITCHERO GROUP

INDUSTRY
Sports Applications

LOCATION
Leeds, UK

Teamer is an app that helps administrators manage their sports teams or groups. While Pitchero, Teamer's sister company, works with larger, multi-team clubs, Teamer lets users manage communication and access all event information for single teams or social gatherings like netball games or five-a-side soccer matches.

Challenges

HIGH MIGRATION COSTS, LIMITED EXPERTISE

Jon Milsom, CTO, was itching to consolidate and migrate Teamer's hosting to AWS, but he was stuck. Teamer's resources were already spread thinly, so Jon didn't want to invest internal resources to handle the one-off migration. And after the migration, he didn't want to add even more tasks to his existing workload — tasks involved in managing infrastructure like monitoring, upgrades, database optimization and troubleshooting.

But Jon and Teamer were acutely aware of the need for scalable hosting. Before migrating to the Cloud, Pitchero had a sports event where one of the clubs that uses their system ended up on TV. As the program ended, the club's entire fan base surged to one of their sites and it crashed.

Teamer needed a scalable solution that could handle fluctuations in demand, like nightly reductions in traffic when users are sleeping or higher weekend traffic when sport is played. Teamer wanted to outsource to a team that could provide expertise migrating their apps to AWS and managing the infrastructure after the migration. Jon had past experience with a different managed service for hosting that was very hands-off. They suggested best practices, but never got their hands dirty and fixed things. He knew he wanted a hands-on team that could collaborate and offer proactive solutions.

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"I always wanted to move things over into AWS for Teamer, but we were struggling to justify a one-off migration cost and allocate internal expertise to do that. In 2020, there's no reason for our internal technical staff to be worrying about undifferentiated heavy lifting."

Solution

MIGRATING TO A FULLY MANAGED, CLOUD NATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE IN AWS

Teamer had been working with Speedyrails for years and appreciated the agile, collaborative ethos of the team. So when Teamer found out that Speedyrails offered an Amazon hosting option, Jon knew it was perfect timing. Instead of doing a "lift and shift" migration — moving their existing virtual servers to the Cloud, and only taking advantage of Cloud capabilities later on — Teamer could migrate straight into a Cloud Native solution. Because of Speedyrails' expertise, the final solution would be less cluttered and more scalable.

Migrating to AWS' region in Ireland from Speedyrails' datacenters in Toronto would also make Teamer's new setup closer to their end users in Europe. This would guarantee a lower latency and better user experience for most of their users.

Speedyrails helped Teamer migrate their application to a container based architecture using AWS Elastic Kubernetes Service. The application is containerized using Docker, and the Docker containers run on Kubernetes clusters, which auto-scale up and down depending on users' demand. After the migration, Speedyrails continued to provide day-2 operations services to make sure the setup continued to adapt to Teamer's needs.

" *"It was only a week or so before we were fully operational with a good performance level in production. They deployed everything to the staging environment weeks before we even set a date for migration so that our developers could test and use the new system without any danger of interrupting the live system."*

Results

PEACE OF MIND, SCALABLE TRAFFIC, REDUNDANCY, AND A BETTER DEPLOY PROCESS

Teamer's new, containerized setup means the application can be reactive and lightweight. Jon not only has peace of mind that he's not paying for computing resources that he's not using, but also that it can scale up quickly. If traffic spiked like Pitchero's sudden surge, the application won't crash.

The scalability quickly proved useful. When Covid-19 hit, Teamer didn't have to worry about forecasting capacity in such uncertain times, even though they lost a significant amount of their traffic at the beginning of the pandemic. Since capacity would be tailored to traffic levels, the traffic needs could be responded to in real time.

The deploy process is now much more stable and secure. It used to involve a multi-step, manual process. Teamers' developers would push the application code by connecting directly from their computers to each server individually. Now they just need to push the changes to AWS and the deploy pipeline takes care of the rest.

With Speedyrails managing Teamer's infrastructure in AWS, Jon and his team have freed up their time and brain power. The Teamer team can now focus on developing the app to add value to the company, without worrying about the infrastructure the application runs on.

" *"Speedyrails is more than worth it because of the peace of mind and knowing that we can now scale up and down. And it's really good to have an extra pair of hands and brain power 24/7 to brainstorm and debug issues. That's really, really important for the company and for the wellbeing of my team. "*

Looking for experts who can migrate and fully manage your app in AWS?

Let Speedyrails handle your AWS migration and infrastructure so you can focus on developing your app and growing the business

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