

Retail & Technology Services

The Client:

Client is a community library chain that helps libraries share inventory, which increases the number of titles available for all libraries. Customers can borrow and return books from a kiosk at any library or order books online for home delivery. Client uses radio-frequency identification (RFID) tags to track and manage inventory. In three years, the library chain has grown to include 60 libraries across 10 cities in India, giving client members access to more than 800,000 books. The client parent company staff includes 60 full-time employees, 20 consultants, and 30 warehouse and delivery workers.

Business Challenge:

Client expanded its operations to several locations and needed an integrated system to manage information across the organization. They were using a privately hosted solution.

Solution:

Infomatics suggested SAP Business All-in-One. "We determined that we would need a minimum of four servers to run the SAP solution on that infrastructure," "However, we only planned to use the SAP solution occasionally, up to 15 hours per month." After reviewing the budget, client realized that by moving to cloud, the company would be able to reduce costs since the hardware would no longer be an upfront capital cost.

Why Amazon Web Services:

Infomatics considered Amazon Web Services (AWS) to be a stable and cost-effective solution. “The competitive pricing for Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (Amazon EC2) instances and other services, as well as continuing price reductions, meant that AWS would be a cost-effective platform for deployment,” “We can deploy our SAP solution on AWS and pay only for the resources that we use. Scaling and provisioning new instances is self-service and only takes a couple of minutes.”

Working with Infomatics, client installed SAP Business All-in-One using SUSE Linux Enterprise Server on Amazon EC2. Client now uses SAP Solution Manager to deploy and manage its development, testing, and production environments. Client installed each environment in phases, followed by user training. The SAP solution went live on AWS in less than two months.

To run the JustBooks platform, Strata uses SAP R/3 on Amazon EC2. The platform uses Amazon Simple Storage Service (Amazon S3) to store the static resources (such as digital membership forms) that it uses with Amazon CloudFront for content delivery. The company estimates that it currently stores about 500 GB in Amazon S3. The company runs Oracle databases on Amazon Relational Database Service (Amazon RDS) and uses AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM), Amazon CloudSearch, and Amazon Simple Email Service (Amazon SES). To monitor availability, Strata uses Amazon Simple Notification Service (Amazon SNS) and third-party services such as New Relic and Pingdom.

Business Benefits:

“The value is in not having to invest in data centres and associated costs, such as electricity and cooling, to host applications. “We start servers as we need them, about 30 percent of the time each month. Because we only pay for what we use, we’re saving upwards of 60 percent.” By implementing SAP Business All-in-One on AWS, Strata has a stable platform that can support the growth of the organization. The company uses the SAP solution for many of its core functions, including payroll, help desk, and development, and has adopted SAP best practices to improve organization efficiency.

Traffic to JustBooks is cyclical, and generally increases by 60 percent during the evenings and weekends. By using Auto Scaling to manage traffic to the JustBooks platform, Strata has been able to reduce costs for the platform by approximately 40 percent. “Using AWS, we’re able to use our hardware resources efficiently. Our response time during peak traffic is now less than our service level agreement with our customers.