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Mining company boosts performance with private cloud solution for SAP

Accenture completes infrastructure refresh in nine months

CHALLENGES

- **Existing infrastructure unable to deliver** desired level of performance
- **Dramatic increase in scalability needed** following major acquisition
- **Aggressive timeline—refresh needed** within nine months

SOLUTIONS

- **Implemented the private cloud solution for SAP**, based on Accenture's FlexPod* for SAP Cisco Validated Design* (CVD*)
- **Deployed Cisco Unified Computing System*** (UCS*) and the NetApp Unified Storage Solution in primary and backup data centers to provide a more open and flexible platform for SAP

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*—Eric Renouard
Global SAP Technology Lead, Accenture*

Ready for an infrastructure refresh

In part because of the struggling economy, many SAP customers have delayed infrastructure refreshes during the last few years. Now competitive pressures are rising, and businesses are looking for smart, cost-effective replacements for their underperforming systems.

That was the situation facing a leading mining company, especially following a major acquisition. The company's existing infrastructure was then unable to deliver the desired level of performance and scalability to support standardized global operations. For help, the company turned to Accenture, a global management consulting, technology services, and outsourcing company.

Accenture offers a private cloud solution for SAP that combines the highly virtualized infrastructure of a public cloud with the high level of data security and integrity common to on-premise solutions. The solution—which can be delivered in less than six months at a standard price— is designed to enhance the performance of infrastructures running SAP solutions,
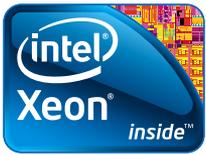
improve flexibility, lower costs, and take advantage of newer SAP technologies such as analytics and mobility.

According to Eric Renouard, global SAP technology lead for Accenture, "Our private cloud solution for SAP dramatically boosts the performance of SAP systems, shortens the time to deploy new SAP environments from days to hours, and greatly reduces TCO—while providing SAP analytics and mobility capabilities."

Industry-leading technologies

For its private cloud solution, Accenture has developed a unique industry alliance that combines hardware and software from leading companies including SAP, Cisco, NetApp, VMware, and Red Hat running high-performance, secure Intel® technologies. The solution's FlexPod for SAP reference architecture includes Cisco UCS and NetApp storage, available in three sizes, which are based on the scalability needs of the business.

The Cisco UCS and NetApp storage platforms are powered by Intel® Xeon® processors, which provide the sophisticated performance, reliability,

Private cloud solution for SAP delivers higher performance at a lower cost

and scalability the mining company was looking for. Intel Xeon processors 5600, E7-4600, and 7500 series also support multitenancy in the Cisco UCS platform and provide the features and performance needed to support an eventual move to public cloud computing.

The architecture of Accenture's private cloud solution for SAP is designed to deliver higher performance at a lower cost. The unique, preconfigured solution, which is based on Intel's intelligent server compute capabilities, can help businesses reduce the TCO of the SAP infrastructure by up to 30 percent and run applications as much as 50 percent faster, while also reducing risk and speeding time to benefits.

Better performance, greater scalability

Accenture created a private cloud infrastructure for the mining company and customized the installation to meet customer demands. The project was finished on schedule, with rapid deployment and scaling of SAP completed in just nine months.

Along with speeding application performance and increasing platform utilization, the mining company reduced its lead time to restore SAP from more than six hours to less than 15 minutes. Faster test cycles allowed for more testing within project schedules.

With the help of the private cloud, the company is now able to allocate additional space and CPU power, lowering the risk of a data center move. Business continuity and disaster recovery have also been extended to individual systems.

Accenture and Intel are continuously collaborating on enhancements to this solution. Future versions of the FlexPod reference architecture will include Intel® Trusted Execution Technology (Intel® TXT) and Intel® Advanced Encryption Standard New Instructions (Intel® AES-NI) to address peak business demands and reduce the risk of sensitive corporate assets being breached.

For the mining company, the cloud-based virtualization of servers and storage reduced the number of physical servers necessary by 75 percent, and decreased storage needs by 80 percent. Simplified storage management also increased efficiency, and the architecture can now support a mix of application landscapes.

Positioned for success

Accenture's private cloud solution for SAP was an ideal solution for the mining company, since it provided the benefits of public cloud platforms—including lower costs and increased performance and efficiency—while also delivering a high level of security.

Accenture now manages the applications and infrastructure, relieving the IT pressures facing the company. By revising its operating model to take advantage of emerging technologies and trends, the mining company is able to optimize its general and administrative processes.

Are you interested in optimizing your internal infrastructure with Accenture's private cloud solution for SAP? Contact Accenture today for a collaborative evaluation and proposal to move toward a more cost-effective and efficient future, powered by Intel® Xeon® processor technology. **Visit www.accenture.com for more information**.

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