

One of the largest travel agencies - TUI Poland - migrated to Oktawave and saved 28% of its previous IT cost



Client:
TUI Poland Sp. z o.o.

Process:
migration to the Oktawave infrastructure

Resources used:
Oktawave Cloud Instance, Oktawave Cloud Storage, Oktawave Volume Storage

Benefits:
savings, scalability, increased productivity



Stable operation regardless of traffic load, lack of the need to employ additional administrators, no need to invest in equipment and substantial cost savings - these are just some of the benefits that TUI company achieved after migrating to Oktawave cloud.

About TUI

TUI is a company operating in the tourism industry, present on the Polish market for over 20 years. During this time, the services of this travel agency benefited nearly 1.5 million customers.

In the last ten years - along with the development of the Internet, increase of the availability of computers and mobile devices - the way of seeking vacation offers has completely changed. Searching for a dream holiday is now done in the browser, which means that the service provider must have an IT infrastructure that can handle the large traffic on its website.

Moreover, TUI infrastructure is not only used to support the site or the reservation system - it is also the backend for the nearly 400 employees who keep watch over everything, so that the holidays with TUI were always successful. This means that the company has always needed a corporate stability and performance, which advanced IT technologies could provide.

Before migration

The development of a web portal and an increase in the number of transactions meant that the existing infrastructure has become insufficient. Industry in which TUI operates is characterized by a particular seasonality, therefore the level of infrastructure usage differs in time. Infrastructure is most intensively used in: November, December, January, February and then in June, July, August and September.

The existing TUI infrastructure was built based on dedicated servers - such a solution is not conducive to seasonal activities, especially for companies that from year to year increase the number of customers. Predicting demand for resources is very difficult and companies usually ends up with overestimation or underestimation and they have to add more dedicated servers fast.

In other words, the existing solution was not scalable, it was not possible to respond to the increased traffic smoothly. Therefore, purchased machines power was usually insufficient at the time or was not fully utilized. This generated a high cost of operation and it was inconvenient to administrator to always take care of equipment and remodeling applications.

Instead installing another dedicated server, TUI administrators decided to solve the problem once and for all, by migrating to a scalable cloud solution. The main goals during the search of the cloud provider were:

- an increase in computing power,
- scalability,
- shorten the time of implementing changes,
- as well as optimization of costs.

Migration

After examining the market (including other cloud computing providers and complementary products), TUI opted for Oktawave, Polish cloud computing provider.

“We chose Oktawave mainly due to the convenience and economic factors. Solution offered by Oktawave cloud eliminated the need for the development of dedicated servers infrastructure, incurring the costs of periodic upgrading and operation of this infrastructure” - says Paul Bienkowski, Director of Online Sales and IT.

The migration process started with the preparation of the plan, created together with architects and administrators from Oktawave. Then the team proceeded to install and prepare the test environment. Having a preliminary step behind, administrators took care of the optimization and test implementation.

When everything was working as expected, the migration team has started the performance tests and when these came to an end, they started the implementation process.

TUI infrastructure based on Oktawave cloud brings mainly scalability and flexibility and this means that it adapts to the current load and is completely resistant to overload. The new system abolished the need for resource planning.

After migration

The company currently has two distinct environment (test and production). The test environment consists of 11 OCI instances divided into the following roles:

- 2 web servers,
- 2 static content servers,
- 2 database servers (replication master/slave),
- 2 database servers for cache type tables,
- 2 servers managing database servers for cache type tables,
- 1 application server (CMS).

Production environment consists of 17 OCI instances divided into the following roles:

- 1 VPN server,

- 4 web servers,
- 2 static content servers,
- 2 database servers (replication master/slave),
- 3 database servers for cache type tables,
- 2 servers managing database servers for cache type tables,
- 1 application server (CMS),
- 2 proxies.

To make it easier to work with such a large infrastructure, administrators use the instance containers. Tests of the Oktawave Cloud Storage are also ongoing. OCS is tested for storing web content and data backup.

Benefits

TUI staff conducted a pricing simulation - if the company wanted to build the infrastructure, used now, from scratch, its cost would be as much as 40% higher.

Administrators are also pleased with the new infrastructure, who after tests confirmed that the new infrastructure is more efficient by about 150%. TUI administrators also appreciate the simplification of the infrastructure.

Oktawave cloud provides smooth adjustment of computing power to the load, in addition, it is resistant to unexpected, sudden changes in traffic and thanks to Autoscaler it is done without interfering with the administrators, who can focus on other activities.

In Oktawave customers pay for the resources actually used, for TUI it means that during periods of smaller interest in tourism services company pays less for infrastructure maintenance.

With all of this benefits the company can concentrate on the core business - tourist services at the highest level.

“What we often heard about cloud computing, turned out to be true. We saved on infrastructure, but also increased its efficiency. We’re now confident that any traffic to our sites won’t affect the customers comfort, when looking for holidays” - Paul Bienkowski, Director of Online Sales and IT summarizes the migration.

More information

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