

Hermes – DB2 Application Modernisation to Cloud

Hermes have successfully migrated their critical DB2 applications from an in-house data centre to AWS Cloud with the help of Triton Consulting.



Background

Hermes, the consumer delivery specialist, provides flexible and affordable delivery options to home, work, neighbour, safe place, ParcelShops or Lockers, giving customers control whether sending, receiving or returning parcels.



390m
parcels delivered each year



80%
of the UK's top retailers including Next, ASOS, John Lewis and Boohoo



18,000
self-employed couriers



5,000+
ParcelShops nationwide

Project objectives



Primary deliverable

Seamless transition to cloud services and minimise downtime to business critical services



Technologies used

AWS EC2 / AWS EFS /
AWS EBS/ AWS S3 /
AWS Connect Direct /
AWS JAMS /
AWS Transit Gateway



Principal benefits

Faster transaction throughput
A more responsive and efficient system

The Project



Modernise to Cloud services

Hermes had been running much of their IT services for several years from the company European Data Centre in Hamburg. For business and costs reasons the decision was made to move these services to the Cloud and manage them from the UK.

The overall objective was to have as seamless a transition as possible, to minimise downtime to these Business critical services during the move and to reduce impact to the users and IT development staff once the application had been re-platformed. In addition, it was hoped that the move to later technology, than currently being used, would deliver faster transaction throughput, and that work conducted as part of the transition to update and restructure some of the database would also deliver a more responsive and efficient system.

Timescales were manageable, but had to take into account the target date set for the shutdown of Hamburg Data Centre, where the existing on-premise databases were hosted. The migration also had to work around the highly sensitive year end processing, where system changes would be frozen for two months to not impact service during this high volume period.



At this stage of the project we had a clear idea of what we wanted to achieve from the migration. There was a solid business case. We knew there would be a lot to do, and the need to develop sound plans. We were looking for a partner who could help us de-risk the migration".

Tom King

IT Programme Manager



From planning to delivery

The migration, from planning to delivery of the working service in the Cloud, took some 8 months from the initial scoping to final checking and housekeeping on the working Cloud system.

- **Objectives** first step was to understand the objective Hermes had for the migration. The drivers and timescales. Were these achievable?
- **Planning** then into more detail. What applications and data needed moving. The source and target systems. Personnel in the UK and Germany involved in the preparation, testing and migration. What needed doing when?
- **Preparation** most of the detailed preparation and testing happened in the 3rd quarter. Devising the best method of transferring the data with minimal down time for the application. Testing the options for data transfer approach and then stress testing to guarantee success on the move day plus estimated times for the stages of the move
- **Execution** then to the migration weekend in early January. The various close down, migration and setup tasks running from Friday evening until Sunday evening. An intense period of 48 hour non-stop activity.



8 months
from planning
to delivery



The Result

The applications and the DB2 database were live and running on the Monday morning as planned.

Since then measurements have shown the new platform to be delivering improved service levels, including significant reductions to batch processing.

The overall objectives were met:



Moving services out of the Hamburg Data Centre to the cloud



Seamless transition with little impact on users and IT staff



running on later technology



reducing the costs



Having Triton as a key part of the migration team throughout the journey was invaluable."

Rob Tomkins

IT Environments Manager

Why choose us

At Triton, we specialise in helping clients modernise their applications by switching to a cloud platform – or a different on-premise platform – quickly and smoothly.

We know data migration. We are proven experts in data migration, having played a key role in many major projects. If you're worried about business downtime, we can help.

We'll control cost. We'll help you minimise the financial risks of the move and make sure you realise the savings you're looking for.

You're in control. We'll work with you to put the processes and protocols in place to give you complete control over key software and hardware administrative tasks.

Serious about security. Cloud service providers implement the best security standards and industry certifications, but storing your vital data externally always opens up some risks. We'll review the database security standards to ensure they meet your required level of control.

Ongoing support. As well managing a smooth transition, we can also deliver ongoing management of your modernised database with our RemoteDBA and Consultancy on Demand service.

Talk to our expert team about how modernising your applications could help reduce costs and improve reliability

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