

CASE STUDY

SWBC Migrates 200+ Workloads to AWS with Help from WSM



Challenge

SWBC wanted to migrate workloads from an on-premises data center to the public cloud to lessen the strain on IT and give them more time to focus on application development.

Solution

SWBC chose WSM International to validate their choice of AWS and help them migrate workloads to the cloud.

AWS Services Implemented

- Amazon EC2
- Amazon FSx

Results

- WSM first performed a cloud validation and cost analysis of AWS.
- WSM then migrated 475 servers in 13 move groups to AWS to ensure a smooth migration and minimize downtime.

SWBC is an international financial services company, providing products and services to help businesses, families, and financial institutions meet their financial goals. Customer service is a hallmark of the company, so system reliability and data security are paramount.

Challenge

SWBC has been serving customers since 1976 with innovative applications in insurance, banking, and investments. As technology adoption in the financial sector grew, SWBC's IT department grew right along with it. Not only was this team maintaining the company's applications and hardware, but they were also developing applications in house.

Confident that the public cloud had now reached a level of maturity where their data security and regulatory requirements could be met, SWBC decided it was time to migrate their workloads to the cloud. Their ultimate goal was to lower costs, but they also felt the move to the cloud would lessen some of the strain on their IT department so they could focus more on the business's objectives and on serving customers.

Solution

With an IT department that was already stretched thin, SWBC wanted a partner that could help them validate their cloud platform choices, configure cloud instances correctly, and migrate their data securely.



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Before kicking off the migration project, WSM performed an analysis to validate SWBC's choice of AWS as the preferred cloud environment. AWS met the technical standards, but they also performed a cost analysis against Azure to ensure SWBC wouldn't be overpaying for cloud resources. Running comparable workloads, AWS monthly costs came in 38% lower than Azure.

"We don't always see that kind of cost differential between AWS and Azure," said Tina Wisbiski, WSM'S project lead. "A lot of it depends on the requirements of the organization and the workloads we're migrating. SWBC already had a preference for AWS, but showing the project team the cost analysis removed any remaining doubts."

Results

SWBC asked WSM to migrate a total of 475 servers to AWS. "In such a large migration, we group servers based on application dependencies so that we're not trying to migrate everything at once," said Wisbiski. "We have a tool we run against an organization's systems to discover these dependencies so nothing gets missed."

After analyzing dependencies, Wisbiski and her team grouped servers into 13 move groups. Then, they prioritized the less mission-critical environments, such as Dev & QA, to ensure those workloads will move smoothly into AWS. The team then applied the lessons learned from phase one to the migration of the environment SWBC uses for their beta program. This served as a dry run for migrating the actual production workloads.

"By taking a phased approach we can uncover any potential issues that the client may not have been aware of," said Wisbiski. "We can apply those learnings to the production cutovers to ensure a successful migration with the smallest maintenance window possible."

About the Client

SWBC is an international financial services company, providing products and services to help businesses, families, and financial institutions meet some of their most critical goals. SWBC has employees across the U.S. We are licensed to market and service a variety of financial products in all 50 states, and our products are offered through several wholly owned subsidiary corporations.

Why Choose WSM & Connectria?

A leader in migration and cloud adoption, WSM delivers solutions designed to meet your needs for greater business agility, better efficiencies, and increased return on investment.

Connectria provides managed cloud, managed services, and compliant cloud security solutions to more than 1,000 global customers delivering technology-agnostic solutions consistently, with depth and breadth of engineering expertise, scalable solutions, and speed to market.



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