



Taking a holistic approach to a wellness organization's architecture

Aches and pains for an aging network

Despite having managed to provide their clientele with a seamless experience across a fleet of branches, this Health and Wellness Organization (HWO) was beginning to reach the limits of their network's abilities. An overhaul was in order if they were to continue providing the quality of services that they strived for.

As it stood, the HWO was operating from a single on-prem facility. One that housed a modest VMware footprint and a network that relied entirely on legacy hardware and software alike.

While this set-up had served them well, time and expansion had begun to take its toll. Their disaster recovery capabilities left much to be desired, which had already resulted in many unexpected and prolonged downtimes that came hand in hand with loss of critical data.

Beyond the network's condition, the HWO also needed to upgrade their bandwidth and reduce latency to keep pace with the digital demands of their business. These changes would be essential if they were to continue providing their clientele with the kind of service and experience they had grown accustomed to.

While each of these problems could have potentially found resolution with some minor changes and software solutions, the confluence of all of them at once meant that it was time for a top-down renovation of their network and systems. Including the looming expiration of legacy hardware and software, some of which had expensive renewals approaching as they neared end-of-life. They needed a solution, fast.

And for this, they turned to Softchoice.

A stronger posture in every way

In tandem with Softchoice, the HWO defined a strategic approach to the network renovations.

The challenges outlined by the HWO meant that their new network solution would need to be scalable, resilient and home to an extensive suite of migration tools to ensure a seamless transition. Being such a large organization with numerous branches, downtime wasn't an option.

Naturally, AWS was a perfect fit for the occasion.

With their destination set, the migration began with the AWS Application Migration Service (MGN), which enabled the HWO to migrate their entire virtual machine environment to Amazon EC2 seamlessly. With Softchoice's guidance, they could move their on-premises data center, including all physical servers, storage appliances and firewalls, without any hiccups.

As part of this process, the HWO established additional domain controllers within their new cloud environment to further ensure continuity and reliability.

To solidify a resilient security posture, Softchoice assisted in the implementation of a firewall and security architecture powered by Fortinet appliances, safeguarding the HWO's critical data and operations. Once the new network was up and running, complete with security measures and support capabilities, the HWO's nationwide branch locations were seamlessly connected by a robust architecture. One that gave them the freedom to take their operations to the next level with optimized connectivity, bolstered bandwidth and entirely minimal latency across the board.



Looking ahead, the migration to AWS laid the foundation for extensive modernization. The HWO was poised to re-platform their SQL environment, adopt cloud-native file servers and implement CI/CD pipelines and VDI solutions.

Holistic thinking

Not unlike the HWO's own approach to customer service, Softchoice enters these partnerships with a holistic approach. Always sure to consider the full scope of where their customer is at, where they want to go and what considerations could be made to ensure ongoing success post-migration.

A financial component in the strategy was also built into their support for the HWO's migration, alongside the immense technical expertise provided throughout.

The entire project would be a waste if, at the end of the day, the costs were to skyrocket and drive down any further growth opportunities, which is why Softchoice secured AWS Proof of Concept (POC) funding. With this additional support, the HWO would be able to explore the capabilities of their new environment without the risk of straining a financial muscle, so to speak.

And, in keeping with Softchoice's 'support doesn't end after migration' thinking, the HWO would continue to have ongoing access to the technical expertise of Softchoice. Holistic thinking includes not just the before and during, it also considers the future; a future ripe for continued growth and innovation for the HWO.

Self-improvement 101

Once securely on AWS, the HWO finally said farewell to their decrepit on-premises data center and infrastructure, along with all the impending costs that would soon be landing in their inbox. No more aging hardware, no more outdated applications and zero risk of unwanted licensing burdens. In short: no more aches and pains, just a one-way path to a stronger, more successful business future.

For them, the belief in self-improvement expanded far beyond just their customers and it continues to extend to their thinking, their work and now their AWS-powered operations.