The Home Depot Delivers Central Platform for Hybrid Cloud Management

Like many enterprises, The Home Depot has a hybrid IT strategy. As innovation and rapid delivery have become more critical in today's DevOps-driven world, its technology goals have changed, with continuous integration and continuous delivery at the forefront. The Home Depot IT team set out to find a comprehensive solution that would serve as a hybrid cloud management platform to increase efficiency, rein in the tracking and management of IT resources and enable greater focus on self-service.

Challenge

The Home Depot had its sights set on continuous integration and continuous delivery (CICD), but getting a machine built was taking anywhere from several days to a week. Spinning up machines and getting rid of them just as quickly was a challenge. The resource provisioning process was causing major bottlenecks in business productivity. The company lacked an effective way to track and manage resources, particularly in its hybrid cloud environment. Future-proofing IT was a major initiative. Containers would eventually become a major focus area, and an agnostic cloud platform would be key to supporting the company's goals.

Solution

The Home Depot Moves From Manual Provisioning in the Hybrid Cloud, Shifts Focus to Providing Self-Service Infrastructure

Hybrid cloud is the prevailing strategy for enterprise IT environments, and The Home Depot's IT strategy is no exception. Its IT team wanted to focus on CICD, but provisioning IT resources was taking anywhere from several days to a week on average. The team needed to be able to spin up machines and bring them down just as quickly to keep pace in today's hybrid-forward landscape.

"The infrastructure landscape is shifting, and cloud services and scalability are major priorities in the enterprise," said Kevin Priest, Technology Director of IaaS & Cloud at The Home Depot.

"As we progress and offer more diverse solutions, the cloud sometimes makes more sense than on-prem. At the same time, our end users' experience shouldn't be fragmented. Using a hybrid cloud management platform enables us to provide a common experience, regardless of the underlying hosting provider."

With their sights set on providing self-service infrastructure server builds to end-users, the Home Depot IT group started evaluating homegrown tools versus platforms available in the market. Their ultimate goal was to provide front-facing infrastructure services to their developers.

Swift Time to Value and Need for Ease of Use Bring Home Depot to CloudBolt

After considering several market-leading solutions, Home Depot decided on CloudBolt Software.

"We didn't need to do a lot of customization with CloudBolt compared to what other solutions required," recalled Zachary Hardin, Senior Manager of Open Systems Engineering at The Home Depot. "CloudBolt has a well-thought-out user interface and superior extensibility on the orchestration side. It enabled us to get up and running and quickly deliver value to our customers. This made CloudBolt an excellent fit."

The team felt that CloudBolt's offering was more mature out of the box than its competitors. They also saw the benefit of easy integration and a multitude of plug-ins. "The flexibility in providing the framework allowed us to integrate with what was already there without a super heavy lift," Hardin explained.

The solutions engineering team at CloudBolt worked with The Home Depot to get the product up and running. CloudBolt implementation is simple, which was one of the primary reasons The Home Depot made its choice. "Implementation was easy. CloudBolt's flexible framework made integration with existing infrastructure a breeze," Priest said.

"The CloudBolt team has been with us on this journey to self-service. Their engineering team has been responsive and collaborative as we've worked through the challenges of converting our enterprise to self-service. This level of partnership and shared direction has enabled Home Depot to move faster, move further and continuously enhance our offerings to our Development Team customers," he added.

Slow Time-to-Provision Conquered. Quick Time to Value Achieved. Innovation Enabled.

Once CloudBolt was up and running, The Home Depot enjoyed rapid time to value. "It previously took them one to two weeks to provision a machine," said Aaron Jablonowski, Senior Solutions Engineer at CloudBolt. Today, it takes 20 minutes."

Today, over 2,300 users leverage CloudBolt to provision resources without submitting a ticket. The process consists of a secure login and selection of machines, which frees IT management to focus on higher priority initiatives.

Additionally, users know that resources aren't free just because they're on-premises. CloudBolt makes it possible to put the cost of resources in front of users at the time of ordering, increasing visibility and rightsizing resource use. Because CloudBolt enables quotas, users can be limited to a certain dollar or CPU amount. "It forms a two-way street to provide control as to who is deploying it and how much can be deployed," Jablonowski explained.

The IT team at Home Depot has the power to provide self-service capabilities to end users while reducing touch points with support teams. They especially enjoy the CloudBolt blueprints feature for separation of orchestration and reporting, as well as APIs for automation.

"Thanks to CloudBolt, our software engineering teams are happy customers, and they're effectively supporting our business applications," concluded Gordon Tallman, Home Depot Staff Systems Engineer. "It's unified and simple to use, and it understands user interfaces for many infrastructure services."

The Home Depot is investing heavily in innovation, with a focus on time to value and self-service. CloudBolt is built to expand with its evolving IT strategy, including non-VM centric services. The Home Depot plans to expand its collaboration with CloudBolt through the integration of Kubernetes, Docker, Terraform and other emerging technologies.

Benefits

The Home Depot successfully reduced time deploying infrastructure services, in turn allowing it to minimize the time and cost to bring applications to market. Self-service provisioning has become simple with server and container builds available on demand. The team previously responsible for building VMs by hand is now free to work on emerging technologies. Innovative features of CloudBolt are driving experimentation and adoption of newer technologies. Budgeting is made easy with enhanced visibility into the costs of resources.

In the era of cloud, **CloudBolt** helps IT and developers work better together by empowering them with better visibility, control, and self-service. CloudBolt delivers the world's most user-friendly cloud management platform, so enterprises can provision, orchestrate, and consume IT resources across hybrid cloud, multi-cloud, and container environments.