CloudBolt
software

At a Glance

Vitals

Employees 300

Location United States

The Competition
vRealize Automation

Red Hat CloudForms

Embotics vCommander

Technology
Virtualization VMware
vCenter, Citrix XenServer

Public Cloud Amazon Web
Services, Microsoft Azure

Configuration Management
Puppet (planned)

Operating Systems RHEL,
CentOS, Windows

VMs 600 and rapidly growing

CloudBolt Expands Self-Service IT for US State Government

This centralized IT group is responsible for the entire state's IT needs, and fields solutions responsible for internal capabilities, as well as public services.

Challenge

The state IT organization struggled with centralizing a large number of virtualization resources that were spread across separately managed vCenter and XenServer clusters. VM sprawl was costing the state thousands of dollars a month in infrastructure and licensing charges, and delays in resource provisioning resulted in a sharp increase of public cloud-based shadow IT environments that put sensitive agency data and security at risk.

Solution

Once implemented by the state, CloudBolt:

- Provided self-service IT to consumers

- Reduced VM sprawl

- Enabled selecting best-of-breed configuration management platform

- Provided real-time accurate chargeback reports

- Enabled IT org to increase agility by adding new service offerings

Eliminate VM sprawl

CloudBolt's ability to ingest information about all of the VMs running across the state enabled the IT team to identify high-cost VMs that were being under-utilized. Unneeded VMs were terminated, freeing underlying server resources and software licenses.

Self-service reduced shadow IT

Shadow IT refers to unsanctioned IT solutions that grow in reaction to an IT organization's inability to meet their consumer's needs. **Using CloudBolt to provide a self-service portal that automates the end-to-end provisioning and management of servers helped meet IT consumer's need to receive on-demand access to servers.**

Flexibility to adopt best-of-breed configuration management solution

The state IT team wants to move past managing multiple VM templates and manual management of software application installation and configuration. They're currently evaluating Puppet and Chef. CloudBolt's integration with many industry-leading technologies gives them the ability to select the configuration manager that is best for their specific use cases.

Chargeback and showback reporting

The state's previous chargeback reporting required significant staff effort to collect data from multiple systems, correlate it, and then assign it to the appropriate group for invoicing. CloudBolt streamlined this entire process, savings dozens of staff hours each month.

Increased agility and automated testing

Implementing CloudBolt enabled the IT organization to focus on tasks and projects that enabled them to create new offerings for their IT consumers, who can easily select from a list of available offerings from CloudBolt's service catalog.

Through the Cloud Supply Chain Validator, CloudBolt automatically tests the underlying service offering components to ensure they're working properly, improving the end user experience.

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Benefits

With CloudBolt in place, the IT organization reported the following benefits:

- ✓ **Reduced VM provisioning from 2 days to sub-10 minutes**

- ✓ Rapidly eliminated VM sprawl

- ✓ Created an "IT vending machine" from existing virtualization environments

- ✓ Gained control of environment governance

- ✓ Easier to install and maintain than the competition

- ✓ Integrating chargeback exposed gaps in previous reporting

- ✓ Can grow into a configuration management tool of choice

Using CloudBolt to provide a self-service portal that automates the end-to-end provisioning and management of servers helped meet IT consumers' need to receive on-demand access to servers.

The state's evaluation and selection of CloudBolt was an easy one. Rather than "select the best of the worst", they continued to search for a cloud manager that was both easy to install and configure, but would also grow with their requirements.

Of the evaluated competition, only CloudBolt effectively integrated their existing infrastructure, making it easy to model and apply a rate structure.

The CloudBolt rate engine enabled the state to offer different rates on a per-environment basis. On install, CloudBolt reported a large cost delta between what the customer expected and what CloudBolt actually reported. After a bit of investigation, CloudBolt was deemed to be correct: the IT team discovered several TB of allocated storage that had been routinely missed from manual chargeback accounting.

CloudBolt's intuitive interface enabled the state to rapidly develop new offerings for their end users. The state could easily modify the ordering process to match the level of understanding of the end user, meaning the state could expand the self-service IT portal to serve nearly everyone who regularly requested IT resources or applications.

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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.