This leader in the gas transportation sector uses hybrid cloud services as a competitive differentiator with the help of iland.

Leveraging cloud services that include IaaS along with cloud-to-cloud DR and DRaaS for on-premises servers, Navigator Gas is at the forefront of cloud innovation in the oil and gas industry.

profile

Navigator Gas is the owner of the world's largest fleet of LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) vessels. The company has offices in London (HQ), New York and Gdynia (Poland) with approximately 80 shore based full-time employees and hundreds of officers and crew across 38 owned vessels. The IT team, led by Simon Brooker - Group IT Manager, oversees all of the office based IT which includes an existing investment in VMWare ESX servers as well as the IT on the vessels. Each vessel has approximately 12 PC's on board which amounts to 456 PCs.

discovering cloud innovation

Having experienced significant growth over recent years, the company got to the point where compute and storage requirements exceeded available on-premises capacity. They faced a decision familiar to many IT teams – invest additional CAPEX in IT infrastructure or leverage the cloud. For Brooker and his Directors, it was clear that cloud was the way to go but they approached the transition carefully and with key requirements in mind.

not just any cloud

After taking a look at a couple of the big-box cloud providers including Microsoft Azure and AWS, Brooker and his team quickly realized they didn't have the IT resources required to convert their workloads to make them fit these inflexible cloud environments.

"We took the decision to look at cloud based VMware IaaS hosting providers instead of investing in additional on-prem hardware," Brooker explains. *"We didn't want to discard any previous investment in the VMware platform, as it had worked well for us in the past."*

In addition to leveraging the familiarity of a VMware based platform, Navigator Gas had cyber-security concerns top of mind when moving to the cloud. Resolving a lack of IT reliability which was becoming unacceptable was also a key objective for their cloud adoption strategy. With these clear requirements in mind, Brooker and his team went out to the market and found that iland ticked all the boxes.

NAVIGATOR GAS

profile

- SIZE: Enterprise
- INDUSTRY: Gas Transportation
- SOLUTION: iland Secure Cloud Hosting with Cloud-to-Cloud DR & iland Secure DRaaS with Zerto
- HEAD OFFICE: London, UK
- www.navigatorgas.com

challenges

- Faced capacity constraints with on-premises server model
- No disaster recovery solution in place
- Wanted to protect investment in VMware platform
- Information security a concern

benefits

- Highly scalable cloud environment
- Avoided additional CAPEX investment while retaining use of existing on-premises servers
- All workloads – cloud and on-premises – protected by DR
- Vulnerability scanning meets application security requirements

Zerto

2016 & 2017 CLOUD PARTNER OF THE YEAR AWARD

cloud hosting – with all the extras

Navigator Gas hosts applications essential to daily operations including safety management software and the procurement management system in the iland Secure Cloud. Having come from a fixed server model, the ability to scale up and down at will is a huge benefit. Brooker explains; "Previously, a requirement to increase storage could take days or weeks (procure disks, swap out, rebuild storage arrays, and amend VM settings). Now our environment in iland can be scaled in a matter of minutes – all via the intuitive iland cloud console."

hybrid cloud disaster recovery

Navigator Gas has gone from having no DR strategy in place to having a hybrid cloud DRaaS solution that protects both on-premises and hosted systems. Brooker was impressed with the security of the iland with Zerto DRaaS solution as well as the ease of replicating all of their workloads. "We utilize the iland DR with Zerto solution to replicate our environment between iland data centres in the UK (London and Manchester) and for replicating any onsite workloads to iland (Manchester) for added redundancy to disaster scenarios." said Brooker.

un-matched security and visibility

Cyber-security risks were a key concern for the Navigator Gas management team as they prepared for the move to cloud. The advanced security features of the iland cloud help Brooker and his team ensure that workloads and data entrusted with iland are safe. Brooker explains; "The automated vulnerability scanning offered by iland's partnership with Tenable has helped us to satisfy our immediate low-level testing needs for our hosted applications without the need to source an additional external security scanning consultancy."

Further security assurance comes from the iland management console which enables security reports to be quickly downloaded to show how to address any vulnerabilities. "If we had to implement these security features ourselves, we would need to pay big money. With iland, it's baked into their secure cloud platform and we essentially get it for free." said Brooker

a long term partnership

Brooker was also impressed with the support and advice provided by various iland teams from sales to engineering and support, remarking: "Many vendors put a lot of effort into the sales process but then it drops off. This didn't happen with iland – I still get the same response I did during the sales process and that is a testament to the company and the people you employ."

"We have achieved on-demand, secure scalability and IT resiliency with iland IaaS and DRaaS solutions. But, we also have a partnership with a cloud provider that supports us every step of the way."

- Simon Brooker, Group IT Manager

iland named a Gartner DRaaS Leader 2016 & 2017

*Source: Gartner **"Magic Quadrant for Disaster Recovery as a Service"** by Ron Blair, Mark Thomas Jaggers, June 19, 2017.*

about iland

iland is a global cloud service provider of secure and compliant hosting for infrastructure (IaaS), disaster recovery (DRaaS), and backup as a service (BaaS). They are recognised by industry analysts as a leader in disaster recovery. The award-winning iland Secure Cloud Console℠ natively combines deep layered security, predictive analytics, and compliance to deliver unmatched visibility and ease of management for all of iland's cloud services. Headquartered in Houston, Texas and London, UK, iland delivers cloud services from its data centres throughout the Americas, Europe, Australia and Asia. Learn more at iland.com.

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