CUSTOMER CASE STUDY

ST・WORKS inc.

> “FUJITSU Cloud Service K5 has extra functions such as analysis systems using AI technology which increases the service’s range of uses.”

Mr. Masaki Mizunuma
President
ST-WORKS Inc.

Testing out FUJITSU Cloud Service K5: Discovering the advantages of the Japanese cloud service at ST-WORKS Inc.

At a glance

Country: Japan
Industry: Information technology
Founded: 2004

Challenge

ST-WORKS Inc. wanted a cloud service based on OpenStack that could easily be utilized in an already constructed environment.

Solution

Trialed the FUJITSU Cloud Service K5 by test running DEFACE FINDER, a tamper detection system for websites, on the Infrastructure as a Service capabilities of K5.

Benefit

- Stable network that can be used free of charge for both inbound and outbound data transfers
- Allows services and solutions to be deployed to multiple regions in Japan, which is a major advantage in terms of security measures
- Extra functions such as analysis systems using AI technology which increases the range of uses
- Meets international standards such as OpenStack and Cloud Foundry

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Customer

ST-WORKS is a company operating mainly in Sendai, Japan that engages in customized software development, IT consulting, development of smartphone applications and infrastructure construction. Alongside these services, its affiliated company RAPiC, which was founded by ST-WORKS Inc. President, Mr. Masaki Mizunuma, develops new services for software and web applications.

Products and Services

- FUJITSU Cloud Service K5

Free data transfers and deployment to multiple regions in Japan

Calling himself an 'infrastructure engineer', Mr. Masaki Mizunuma, President at ST-WORKS Inc., was introduced to FUJITSU Cloud Service K5 (K5) when he participated in the first K5 Tech Talk in Japan. The fact that K5 is based on OpenStack was one of the reasons he started to use the service. "It's often said that constructing with OpenStack is difficult but with K5, you can easily utilize an environment that has already been constructed," states Mizunuma.

Mizunuma first trialed the K5 service by test running DEFACE FINDER on the Infrastructure as a Service capabilities of K5. DEFACE FINDER is a tamper detection system for websites which ST-WORKS developed with a partner company. The system has both high inbound and outbound network traffic since it has been designed to conduct tamper detection by regularly sending out requests from its server to the relevant websites it is monitoring.

Whilst benchmarking several cloud services, one advantage of K5 was its stable network that can be used free of charge for both inbound and outbound data transfers. Not only that but K5 allows services and solutions to be deployed to multiple regions in Japan, which is a major advantage in terms of security measures.

Another of K5's strengths is how API execution of requests can be used for all services on K5. "Once you get used to operating the system, you can manage the server just by making an API call," comments Mizunuma.

K5 boasts a wealth of functions which made it difficult to determine which function should be used for the best practice. When faced with such difficulties, Mizunuma attended Fujitsu seminars and directly sought advice from Fujitsu's experts.

Allowing users to work towards global expansion

"One of the possibilities that K5 should explore in the future is expanding the number of foreign regions it covers," states Mizunuma. He notes how it might be easier for Fujitsu to expand its range of services for the overseas market from Japan if it continues to maintain its advantageous position as a Japanese vendor that simultaneously provides support services in Japanese and services for foreign regions. As well as the United States, K5 has four European regions giving the service a competitive edge over the cloud services of other companies.

Mizunuma also discusses the possibilities of the K5 PaaS platform. The number of managed services with standardized IaaS functions is growing, making it increasingly important to have PaaS that can be developed quickly. With that in mind, he believes that K5 has the potential to become the new service delivery platform as it is not only equipped with a Cloud Foundry based application execution platform known as CF, but it also has a variety of services to support business endeavors and data utilization as well as an AI platform called the FUJITSU Cloud Service K5 Zinrai Platform Service.

"I think we'll be able to use K5 as a platform for developing custom smartphone apps and other apps," says Mizunuma. "K5 has extra functions such as analysis systems using AI technology which increases the service's range of uses," he also added, clearly looking forward to the service's future developments.

As stated at the beginning, K5 is based on cloud computing software that meets international standards such as OpenStack and Cloud Foundry and has also been developed by making extensive use of the technical know-how Fujitsu gained from shifting its own business systems to the cloud. By the end of 2019, Fujitsu is planning to shift all its in-house systems in Japan and overseas to the cloud and to continue providing the service to customers whilst enhancing its functions. This is truly a clear sign that the service can be trusted.

Even from an engineer's point of view, one can relate to Fujitsu's willingness to give back to the community by using its technologies to contribute to the development of the actual open source software. Additionally, Fujitsu is one of the members leading the development of open source software and this allows repairs to be made at the codebase level in emergency situations, which is a major advantage.

Being able to transfer data for free is a concrete example of one of the quantitative benefits of K5. Not only does it facilitate the process of designing services, but it is also ideal for drawing up budgets. There is also no need to worry about skyrocketing prices like cloud services offered by other companies. K5 is the alpha Japanese cloud service, and it is safe to say it is one of the leading cloud services which embodies the qualities of safety and security.

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