Spotlight: Cloud-Native Appplications

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Cloud native development:

Born into success.
How the next generation of apps will change the way you work

As the cloud has grown in both reach and importance over the years, enterprises have been urged variously to 'migrate to the cloud', then to subscribe to services that 'live in the cloud' and now, in what is surely a sign of its coming of age, to adopt applications that are 'born in the cloud.'

'Born in the cloud', or Cloud Native Development', is a method of building and managing responsive, scalable and robust applications in a public, private or hybrid cloud environment. This approach is quickly gaining traction with businesses keen to benefit from its flexibility, speed and low set-up and running costs.

What makes it so different to traditional application development? Simple. It all happens entirely in the cloud, as a marriage between application development and infrastructure as code.

That makes cloud native applications incredibly resilient (because they don't rely on a single, critical hard drive or server), and incredibly ubiquitous. In other words, they can be accessed anywhere, by anyone with the right privileges, on any operating system or device.

Although they can live in public, private or hybrid cloud environments, most developers use publicly available, hyperscale large cloud

platforms to build and run their cloud native applications. That makes sense, both because of the cost savings that come from not having to invest in and maintain a private cloud platform, and because of the security issues involved in processing the huge amounts of data they draw on. Security by design is integral in cloud native applications, which makes them among the safest of ways to store, manage and handle your data.

It also explains why cloud native development has been embraced so enthusiastically by start-ups and challenger brands as the most efficient way to innovate, incubate and bring their services to market in weeks, rather than months or years.

It has to be said, however, that cloud native development can be a challenge. Traditional, process-heavy organisations that still lean on monolith applications may find it hard to make the necessary adjustments to take its agile, iterative and 'fail fast' methodology on board.

If they are determined to become more competitive, if their market share is under threat or if they need to get services to market quickly to protect their profits, then the move from heritage to microservices architecture via cloud native development is essential.

For one of our UK customers, reliant on outdated legacy systems and technology, any change to operating systems or online customer services required updates to huge amounts of source code that could take months to deliver.

By turning to Fujitsu, they were able to iterate updates in two-week sprints, implement omni-channel customer contact strategies, accelerate delivery of new customer services and adopt microservices architecture to easily upgrade specific features of their applications.

This helped the customer to gain a competitive advantage in a crowded commercial sector and improve their customers' user experience.

Of course, a successful outcome isn't just about managing the change to 'Born in the Cloud' applications. It's just as important to support those applications properly so they can continue delivering value.

The support requirements for cloud native applications are very different to those needed for heritage applications. Different monitoring methods, different tools, different skills that draw much more on coding expertise than User Interface design.

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Talk to us about how we can help you.

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Reference: 3973