

Benefits Summary



Cost Savings



Higher Flexibility
through Cloud
Infrastructure



Safeguards against
On-Premises Outages

About Transport4

Billing itself as the “Orbitz for the Oil Industry,” Transport4 offers a cost-effective, reliable, and secure software solution for carriers and their customers distributing petroleum products throughout the United States. Petroleum suppliers turn to Transport4 to move product across state lines, determine what pipeline movements will best suit their supply needs, schedule the shipping, monitor for confirmations, and receive custody tickets for accounting.

Industry

Shipping Pipeline Management

Location

Alpharetta, Georgia

Featured Services

Migration, 24/7 Support

CHALLENGE

A Cost-Effective, Scalable, and Reliable Public Cloud Infrastructure to Manage the Company’s IT Infrastructure

As the contract with its previous hosting provider was nearing its expiration date, Tim Hainey, Transport4’s vice president of infrastructure, realized that the company needed to evaluate alternatives for managing the company’s IT infrastructure. The cost-effectiveness, scalability, and reliability of public cloud infrastructure such as Amazon Web Services (AWS), compared with the cost and availability associated with its existing provider, made the cloud a very attractive alternative. At that time, Transport4 had a small base of servers in its data centers and was concerned about maintaining availability in the event of an outage.

“We only had two servers sitting there [in the data center]; if we lost both of those, we were completely down,” Hainey said. “Now in Amazon, even if we lost 100 servers, we’d still be up and running since we can move around in their environment.”

Hainey realized that what had started as a hassle became a threat to Transport4’s business model that could ultimately impact its ability to deliver services to customers.

SOLUTIONS

Seamless AWS Migration with nClouds: Optimal Service at the Best Price

After researching multiple vendors, Hailey and his team quickly realized that nClouds' (formerly Cloudnexus's) managed services on AWS presented the best price and service combination for their business. nClouds was able to ensure that Transport4's transition to AWS was as simple and smooth as possible, and Transport4's migration was successfully completed in November 2014.

During the initial planning and build phases, Transport4 relied on nClouds' architectural

services team, which designed and deployed the VPCs, customer VPNs, multiregion connectivity, server, storage, and email infrastructure. Once migration was complete, the managed services team provided testing and quality assurance and transitioned to ongoing support for all associated environments' services. As with any project, some minor hiccups were encountered, but all hurdles were overcome, and all issues were successfully resolved with nClouds' assistance.

RESULTS

Elevating Efficiency and Uptime through AWS Adoption

Transport4 has primarily benefited from the tremendous cost savings by switching from its data center model to AWS, and Hailey believes the combination of AWS and nClouds has made the company's infrastructure better. He particularly enjoys the fact he can run production sites in two separate states: Virginia and Oregon.

Transport4 has the same two people monitoring its environment as it did with the traditional data center, but that's where the similarities end. The company's previous hosting provider handled patching, but that caused problems due to updates exceeding maintenance windows and potential outages. By switching to a highly available model, Transport4 now executes seamless patch management without any downtime and any impact on its customer base.

Hailey also enjoys the flexibility and responsiveness of the nClouds support staff: If he has a database administration (DBA) question, he can shoot an email over to get an answer right away. He also noted how, on one occasion, Transport4 wanted to test a new CPU configuration in AWS. nClouds assisted in setting up and running the simulation as well as removing the associated artifacts once the test was completed. It would have been impossible to replicate that test in the previous, traditional, on-premise environment due to hardware and cost constraints.



What's Next for Transport4?

The company plans to continue taking advantage of AWS services that make sense for its growing business. And while Transport4's cloud expertise is growing over time, Hailey has no interest in himself or his staff becoming detailed experts in AWS. They are happy to partner with nClouds to fulfill this function, allowing them to stay focused on improving the quality of their pipeline managed services.

"Our uptime has improved significantly due to being in the cloud. We can patch our entire site without having to go offline," Hailey said. "We used to have to go offline at least once a month; now not all."