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Compass Group Spain, S.L.

Food services leader enlists a key partner in its journey to cloud

As part of the multi-national food services company, Compass Group PLC, Compass Group Spain is a leader in catering and auxiliary services with over 50 years of history in Spain and more than 13,000 employees. Providing local service with global reach, Compass Group Spain brings its passion for healthy food to customers across business and industry, including education, healthcare, and sports and entertainment.

Business challenge

At the country level, Compass Group IT organizations operate autonomously, with their own CIOs leading local strategy for data centers and infrastructure. As Compass Group Spain began to centralize operations for procurement and HR to support business transformation, it needed more agility in evolving existing applications and building new ones. Also, global leadership decided to standardize infrastructure across the company with Amazon Web Services (AWS).

Transformation

As one of the top ten financial performers in the global organization, Compass Group Spain was among the first to follow the corporate mandate and move from its hosted data center to AWS. Having already built a private cloud in its hosted environment simplified Compass Group Spain's migration to public cloud; they could do it more quickly. Migrating to AWS would provide flexible scalability, a modernized infrastructure, and a path to better disaster recovery.

Results

Migration of 6TB ERP database and 130 virtual machines (VMs) without business disruption.

Up to 150% improvement in application performance on modernized AWS infrastructure.

Greater agility in developing and supporting new business applications.

Savings from cost optimization with AWS operations.

"The knowledge of the business processes supported by the systems is something the Kyndryl team has learned through the years. That is really added value for me, and I wanted to keep that working for us in the new AWS environment."

Javier Martin CIO, Compass Group Spain

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Solution

Compass Group Spain is a long-time Kyndryl customer with a dedicated Kyndryl team that has more than a decade of experience managing the company's hosted infrastructure. Over time, the team has acquired a deep understanding of the business processes supported by the organization's infrastructure systems, which Compass Group Spain did not want to lose with its migration. That deep knowledge, plus expertise with both cloud migrations and AWS operations, makes Kyndryl a trusted partner in Compass Group Spain's ongoing digital transformation.

Executing a seamless, transparent migration to cloud

Compass Group Spain runs its business mainly on three types of systems. The JD Edwards ERP system with a six terabyte Oracle database is the backbone of the business, handling general accounting, procurement and sales. The HR system handles personnel administration and includes a payroll application and a bespoke application that manages personnel requests. The third system is a mix of applications related to operations, including web-based procurement and a menu-planning application built to support new professional services offerings.

In the hosted data center, all these applications ran in a VMware environment, with Kyndryl responsible for managing the hosting infrastructure and the servers from bare metal up to the database. Migrating the workloads to cloud involved lifting and shifting virtual machines from the private data center to AWS. Although the pandemic prolonged planning and preparation to migrate the applications, Kyndryl along with two other partners actually migrated the 130 virtual machines (VMs) for Compass Spain in a single weekend, with no disruptions to the business.

The entire process was transparent to the people in the field and at local headquarters, as was the later transition of all Oracle databases to the AWS managed relational database service (RDS).

Ongoing operations, disaster recovery and engineering for new applications

Today, Kyndryl manages Compass Group Spain's infrastructure in AWS from the operating systems and middleware up through the database, actively optimizing cost and performance to get the most value out of AWS resources. Kyndryl is also designing and implementing a disaster recovery solution across two AWS regions, and architecting infrastructure for new applications in collaboration with Compass Group Spain's development teams.

The elasticity of AWS infrastructure eliminates capacity constraints experienced in the previous hosted data center. Compass Group Spain experienced room to grow and support ongoing business transformation. Performance has received a boost as well. One process that used to take 20 minutes now completes in just 3 minutes because of the new AWS infrastructure. Disaster recovery is set to deliver 99.99% availability, and instances of the JD Edwards database can be restored in 20 minutes. Behind this success is the continuity of the Kyndryl relationship with Compass Group Spain as it transformed to the cloud infrastructure that supports the business today.



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