Colly Company

Colly

Data management service provides redundancy and cloud-readiness

Colly Company had adopted a cloud strategy which required a step-by-step migration from their on-premises IT infrastructure. Before this could be achieved, the secondary storage site had to be replaced. Proact offered a solution that was based on NetApp Private Storage and went beyond Colly Company's initial expectations. Our solution is now delivering storage, backup and disaster recovery functionalities in a cloud-ready environment, allowing Colly Company to retain control of their data while exploring the public cloud.

Colly Company, part of the Indutrade Group that is listed on the Nasdaq stock exchange, is a leading supplier of technologically advanced components and functional solutions to Scandinavian organisations. Today, Colly Company has a centralised IT infrastructure with an on-premises data centre that also serves approximately ten other Indutrade companies.

As part of its business strategy, Colly Company has commenced a step-by-step migration to the cloud, where the on-premises IT infrastructure will be phased out over time. New data centre hardware will no longer be purchased for upgrades. Colly Company also wanted to outsource ERP system operations.

The challenge

Colly Company had a secondary data storage site that provided redundancy through replication. Learning that this site was about to be shut down, the company wanted to replace it with a new data management solution delivered 'as a service'. This model would mean that there was no need for large capital investments and internal resources could be removed from daily operations. The new setup should be compatible with – or preferably support and facilitate – the company's strategic plans for a gradual migration to the cloud.

Overview

Challenge
Colly Company needed to replace its secondary data storage site which provided redundancy through replication.

Solution
- NetApp Private Storage as a Service provided by Proact
- High-speed direct connection to AWS
- Proact Premium Support

Benefits
- Data governance through private, cloud-enabled storage
- Enables a highly flexible multi-cloud model with migration on the customer's terms
- Immediate access to broad AWS service portfolio
- Cost savings by eliminating dedicated disaster recovery solution

Proact and Colly Company have a long-standing partnership which has involved IT infrastructure projects both on-premises and through hosting/co-location services. The company relies on NetApp storage platforms, delivered and supported by Proact. Colly Company has also leveraged Proact's consultancy services to advise on their IT architecture and cloud strategy.

"We have great trust in Proact as expert advisors. They have been instrumental in designing our present IT environment and are always prepared to give updates on technology issues that matter to us. These can involve our current IT environment and all things related to the cloud," says Gürhan Özay, IT Manager at Colly Company AB.

How Proact helped

Rather than recommending the obvious, which in this instance would be a new secondary data management site that used a similar or even identical setup, we suggested a solution that offered more business benefits. We suggested that NetApp Private Storage as a Service (NPS as a Service) would be the best fit for Colly Company's requirements. This service provides a complete storage and backup solution, leveraging a patent pending cloud architecture. The solution places NetApp storage next to compute resources in the public cloud, while maintaining physical and logical separation of data and compute.

NPS as a Service offers connections to multiple industry-leading clouds and the ability to switch between clouds, without moving data in to the cloud. This enables a highly flexible IT model that is easily scaled to accommodate the evolving business needs of Colly Company and other Indutrade companies. This is all achieved while lowering the total cost of ownership. The solution also means that the organisation can maintain control of its data, whether it's stored on-premises or co-located at Proact data centres, using private NetApp storage.

The fact that Colly Company's primary storage and Proact's managed storage services already resided on NetApp platforms, allowed for a smooth migration. NPS as a Service was first introduced in parallel with the existing secondary site, so that its function could be verified before the latter was phased out.

Because of the NPS service, Colly Company has established a dedicated high-speed connection to Amazon Web Services (AWS) through Amazon Direct Connect. This technology provides private connectivity between AWS and a customer data centre or colocation environment, which reduces network costs and increases throughput, while delivering a more consistent network experience compared to Internet-based connections. It also offers virtual routing and networking capabilities to bridge clouds simply and securely.

Colly Company is now ready to use AWS database or application services together with NPS. With cloud-enabled, but still private storage, workloads can be freely deployed using conventional, on-premises deployment or resources provided by AWS.

"The cloud will most certainly become our first choice for a number of reasons, including cost. However, we are still in the early stage of cloud migration and don't want to be forced into the cloud too soon. With NPS as a Service by Proact, we can stay in control of both of our data and our cloud strategy," says Gürhan Özay.

Aside from the distinct benefit of cloud-readiness, NPS as a Service has also eliminated the need – and the associated costs – of a third-party disaster recovery service that Colly Company previously used.

Benefits

Data governance
Private storage and backup management in a cloud environment

Cloud-readiness
Enables a highly flexible multi-cloud model with migration on customer terms

Cloud potential
Access to broad AWS service portfolio

Cost savings
No need for dedicated disaster recovery solution

About Proact

Proact is Europe's leading independent data centre and cloud services provider. By delivering flexible, accessible and secure IT solutions and services, we help companies and authorities reduce risk and costs, whilst increasing agility, productivity and efficiency. We've completed over 5,000 successful projects around the world, have more than 3,500 customers and currently manage in excess of 100 petabytes of information in the cloud. We employ over 800 people in 15 countries across Europe and North America. Founded in 1994, our parent company, Proact IT Group AB (publ), listed on Nasdaq Stockholm in 1999 (under the symbol PACT). For further information about Proact's activities please visit us at www.proact.eu