



Cloud power delivers savings of ₹ 50 crore for Maharashtra Government

Led by an aggressive IT secretary, Rajesh Aggarwal, the Maharashtra Government is showing other departments what one can achieve if technology is leveraged to its optimum. Called MahaGov Cloud — a private cloud setup by DIT, Government of Maharashtra, the initiative seeks to provide IaaS, PaaS and SaaS cloud services to various departments in the Government of Maharashtra. Today, the MahaGov Cloud has been implemented in the State Data Centre and is extensively used by departments for website and application hosting. The list of departments that use the cloud include Public Health Dept, Mhada, DIT, Charity Commissioner, Textile, Law and Judiciary, Water Supply and Sanitation, IGRO, Food and Drugs, School Education, Social Justice, Relief & Rehabilitation, Forest Department, Rojgarvahini, Tribal, Bombay High Court, UID, Solapur University, Sales Tax department and CIDCO.

The cloud has already delivered approximate savings of ₹ 50 crore on a conservative basis, and has given the government the ability to accelerate projects of national importance. During implementation of the SDC, the state had conceptualized on implementing virtualization for efficient utilization of the infrastructure in SDC.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ The cloud has already delivered approximate savings of ₹ 50 crore on a conservative basis
- ✓ Has given the government the ability to accelerate projects of national importance
- ✓ Has developed a chargeback model — a first for a government institution

Accordingly, a PoC on virtualization using VMWare and Microsoft Hyper V was started in November 2011 leading to implementation of a fully operational cloud by May 2012.

Due to template and clone features, the time to provision a server along with OS and database has been reduced tremendously. Using feature of thin provision of storage and memory, resources are efficiently utilized and allocated as per the requirement and performance.

What's also noteworthy and unique about the MahGov Cloud initiative is the fact that the department has in a first created a comprehensive rate chart for availing cloud services. Departments can pick and choose IT components as per their requirement. Departments can also access a self-provisioning portal for cloud.

Based on initial capital and maintenance costs, the government has devised a chargeback and metering mechanism. Some departments are being served dummy bills so that they know how much is actually provisioned and consumed by them in the SDC. The rate card has acted as a counterforce for containing costs and has also contributed in stabilizing and putting an upper cap for prices of standard services.

Having established the cloud

RAJESH AGGARWAL
IT Secretary



as a basic platform, Maharashtra's IT secretary is now experimenting with all possible options. Besides providing IaaS, PaaS and SaaS on a monthly basis, the department is offering Business Intelligence-tools-as-a-Service (BlaaS), GIS thematic-map-as-a-Service (GISaaS), API-as-a-service and Survey-as-a-Service and Authentication-as-a-service.

As many senior government executives now carry iPads, the government wants to encourage them to start experimenting with data by providing them with an interface to analyze using what-if-scenarios. The government has a vision that all the departments within Maharashtra must be able to use BI reports and dashboards to perform analysis to get meaningful and actionable information.

The Maharashtra Government's approach and aggressive embracement of cloud technologies is a superb case to showcase how a technology like cloud can be fully leveraged to bring about large-scale transformation. If other state governments too embark on the cloud path, the journey towards transformation of India will be faster and much more efficient. **IW**

SNAPSHOT

Company: Government of Maharashtra

Project: Deployment of private cloud

Project Head: Rajesh Aggarwal, IT Secretary

SI/ Vendor: VMware