

Delivering business agility through cloud and SAP modernization for PDS Limited

Client profile

PDS Limited is the technology arm of the global fashion, manufacturing, and sourcing giant, PDS Multinational Group. With an annual turnover in excess of USD 1.2 billion, the PDS Group manages supply chains for more than 190 major retailers and brands worldwide, with 50 offices across 18 countries.

Based in Bengaluru, India, PDS Limited has proven technology expertise in developing enterprise frameworks, processes and resources. They have enabled their clients' digital transformations through design thinking and applied thought, as well as innovative, cost-effective and emerging technologies that are secure, flexible and customizable.

Which services?

- Managed Google Cloud Platform
- Database re-platforming from Oracle to Sybase
- SAP application and database migration from onpremise to cloud
- NTT SimpliInsight monitoring and analytics platform
- Disaster Recovery and data replication services

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As part of our continued growth, updates to our mission-critical SAP landscape were required, while simultaneously ensuring both improved agility as well as cost optimization.

Mr. Ramireddy, Head of IT, PDS Limited

Summary

As a company that solves real-world problems and presents tangible growth opportunities to customers, PDS Limited needed a technology partner who could support and manage their large, ever-expanding and always-on infrastructure landscape. PDS Limited's used SAP's ERP application (SAP ERP Central Component or ECC) to manage their businesscritical operations related to finance, inventory and logistics management. Management and maintenance of the on-premises legacy application was becoming increasingly cumbersome, adversely impacting performance levels.

PDS Limited partnered with us to leverage our expertise to move their SAP systems to Google Cloud Platform (GCP). Ensuring zero downtime and smooth transition would be critical. We also enabled several configuration changes, including a move from an Oracle database to Sybase on GCP, migration of data, setting up a DC-DR architecture using appropriate DRM tools, and provisioning our SimpliInsight tool to provide real-time insights and analytics into the new application and infrastructure landscape.



Business need

Managing complex migrations, maintenance and DR engagements

PDS Limited's current on-premises, legacy SAP environment is critical to finance functions, plant maintenance and materials management.

These legacy systems and infrastructure were unable to scale in step with the company's growth and were causing performance and latency issues, leading to routine operational challenges. In addition stability issues caused by capacity bottlenecks also compromised business operations.

The existing environment also lacked any form of resiliency. To rectify this, their wanted to implement a highly responsive DR environment for their SAP environment, which would enable quick and effective data recovery in the event of unforeseen outages.

This led to their decision to collaborate with NTT, meeting their need for a single technology partner with established credibility in driving end-to-end cloud transformations.

Solution

Creating a seamless cloud environment

To achieve their business objectives, PDS Limited elected to move their SAP environment to Google Cloud Platform. They selected NTT as their Managed Services Partner for GCP and SAP, because of our expertise in migrating and managing SAP applications to the cloud.

We conducted initial assessments in conjunction with their SAP application development team, conducting a proof of concept and leveraging performance testing to fine-tune infrastructure sizing requirements.

Key elements of the transformation was compliance with PDS Limited's controls and cybersecurity protocols, as well as providing overarching program governance. Highlights of the transformed technology landscape include:

- **SAP on Google Cloud:** The company's SAP applications today run on Google Cloud's SAP-certified instances designed for memory-intensive systems. Not only can GCP handle PDS Limited's future growth requirements effortlessly, but it can also support a robust on-cloud DC DR setup.
- **Database re-platforming:** PDS Limited on-premises Oracle SAP database was replatformed to Sybase for GCP to meet the growing need for cost optimization. Sybase uses GCP-persistent SSD disks, whose single millisecond latency is suited for highperformance database workloads.

- **Resilience, storage and security:** PDS Limited uses Google Cloud Storage for SAP backups, Google Cloud VPC, Compute Engine Snapshots, and Google IAM and security services. A highly effective DC-DR architecture was deployed (DC at Singapore and DR at Mumbai), replicated using DRM tools.
- **Analytics:** PDS Limited also uses our SimpliInsight services for cost and performance optimization, and overall cloud governance. This provides them with actionable insights allowing them to monitor, analyze and optimize their cloud infrastructure. They're also exploring BigQuery for their analytics requirements.

Outcomes

An agile and cost-effective infrastructure solution

Google Cloud Platform proved a more agile and cost-effective alternative when compared to the legacy on-premises set-up.

- **Seamless transition:** Working with NTT, PDS Limited was able to accelerate swift solution development and migration of over 6TB of data, along with gaining faster delivery speed and improved agility for their SAP application. The entire transition was completed in 180 days with zero downtime.
- **Significant cost benefits:** GCP provided lower infrastructure TCO, while expediting delivery time of their new business framework by 2x and delivering over 20% in savings.
- **Holistic insights:** The applications and services offered as part of GCP, like BigQuery, are promoting real-time data analytics and competitive insights.

The partnership was also immensely beneficial for driving new business outcomes and opportunities to PDS Limited.



Given their expertise in cloud transformation and SAP, we determined that NTT was the best partner to help us achieve our goals.

Mr. Ramireddy, Head of IT, PDS Limited