Summary

Red Stack Tech, a mid-sized technology company headquartered in the UK had been using Amazon Web Services (AWS) Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2) services for six years when it realized that the solution was not quite meeting its internal and customers’ growing needs. It found the vendor’s Relational Database Service (RDS) and business model too restrictive and as a result of this they started evaluating other cloud solutions in the market. This case study looks at the migration journey Red Stack Tech has undertaken to Oracle Database Cloud Service and discusses its successful implementation. Red Stack Tech has been using the service for approximately six months now and has found that its overall cost is lower than that of AWS and grades the overall experience & usability of the solution a 9 out of 10.

The material for this case study was obtained during the course of a meeting with James Anthony, CTO, Red Stack Tech during Oracle’s flagship technology conference, Oracle OpenWorld 2015 in San Francisco, USA.

The Company

Red Stack Tech’s revenues are about $30+ million with 170 employees across the globe and has recently set-up an Oracle Academy at its European base in Krakow, Poland. The company was established in 1997 and has its headquarters in the United Kingdom. The company is classed as a Systems Integrator (SI) specializing in the provision of Oracle Software, Hardware, Managed and Professional services across the entire Oracle Technology stack and Oracle Engineered Systems portfolio. Its customers are primarily based in UK and Australia and include small as well as very large organizations such as UBS and Tesco. The company is also an Oracle Platinum Partner and has won numerous Oracle accolades over the years.

IT Infrastructure prior to Oracle Database Cloud Service

The company decided to move to Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2) and Amazon Simple Storage Service (S3) cloud services about six years ago when the company was starting to look at cloud solutions for its customers. Prior to moving to the Cloud, Red Stack Tech was an on-premise, Open-Source based IT organization.
Th Problem

1. The Amazon Cloud Service had a "bring your own software licenses" model, which the company wanted to move away from to a solution that included licenses.
2. Amazon’s Relational Database Service (RDS) for Oracle was too restrictive. Certain applications would not run on it and it offered only the Standard Edition of the Oracle database rather than the Enterprise version.
3. The company wanted flexibility to expand or shrink the number of licenses as needed.

Th Solution

Red Stack Tech carried out a rigorous Cloud provider evaluation process and shortlisted Microsoft and Oracle when making its decision to migrate from Amazon. After careful assessment Red Stack Tech discounted Microsoft for a number of reasons driven by customer needs. The process of technically specifying customer requirements also proved difficult when comparing to Oracle. This made selecting the Oracle Database Cloud Service solution easier, which the company has been using since May 2015. The Oracle solution offers some very high value services including scalability and has a clear roadmap for the future. Red Stack Tech pays for its usage by purchasing credits from Oracle in advance. Current monthly costs are running at about $3500.

Today all of Red Stack Tech’s development takes place on the Oracle platform. The company still has some of its production applications on Amazon, where its application server resides, however, it plans to migrate the applications to the Oracle Cloud over the next 12-18 months. Other solutions currently in use are Oracle HCM and Oracle Business Intelligence in the Cloud.

Experience to-date

Red Stack Tech is very happy with the Oracle Database Cloud Service solution to date and rates its overall experience a 9 out of 10. However, the company is currently not able to provide any metrics such as cost savings or productivity improvements, as they have not yet migrated their production applications from Amazon Web Services to Oracle Cloud. Red Stack Tech found that the overall price is very competitive to Amazon’s price structure.
Moving forward

In 2016, Red Stack Tech will consider adopting some of the Compute, Networking and Data Visualization solutions announced at Oracle OpenWorld 2015. However, Red Stack Tech does not plan on using Oracle’s Managed Services, as they believe it would be cheaper to manage it themselves.