Taos helps 1199SEIU begin their modernization journey on Google Cloud Platform.

1199 has extensive sources and stores of data that they wish to run a different variety of analytics on. The primary application stack currently used in this function is a complex real-time analytics application called SAS. The client was running this application on-premise in VMWare but wanted to move the application to the cloud to make it more scalable, expand their storage capacity, have more data sets, and upgrade hardware without POs and downtime. 1199 is also planning an office move in the near future that coincides with end-of-life on major hardware and required a solution that would eliminate that hardware, rather than move or replace it.

The client had already selected Google Cloud Platform as their cloud provider of choice, due to their friendly pricing and integration with the SAS application. The internal technical teams at 1199 did not have experience or knowledge in GCP so a strong, experienced partner was needed to help them reach their goals. Taos was brought onto the project due to our extensive GCP expertise.

Initially, a plan was developed that would use Migrate for Compute Engine (Velostrata) to perform a simple lift-and-shift migration of the five SAS servers into GCP. Taos dedicated one technical resource and one project manager to complete the simple migration project. A successful pilot migration of a single server was performed to demonstrate the feasibility of the plan.

After further reflection and collaboration with both Taos and a SAS-focused vendor, 1199 realized that a lift-and-shift migration would not allow them to use the latest version of the application. Furthermore, post-migration the version they were currently using would soon be out-of-support on an OS level. This meant that they would not be able to take advantage of several new features they had strong business cases for utilizing. Instead, a complete greenfield rebuild of the application stack in GCP was needed. This would also ensure that the project would be built on best practices, using official GCP RedHat images instead of the Velostrata-produced duplicates.

Company Profile:
Healthcare

About the Client:
1199SEIU United Healthcare Workers East is the largest and fastest-growing healthcare union in the nation with over 450,000 members throughout MA, NY, NJ, MD, FL, and Washington DC. Founded in 1932, they serve nurses, nurse aides, techs, lab workers, clerks, housekeepers, dietary workers, transporters, pharmacists, social workers and many other types of medical professionals.

Taos Solutions Deployed:
Professional Services
Once this additional complexity was realized, Taos identified that more expertise was needed to execute the new project. We quickly brought in our most senior GCP SME and a more technical project manager to complete the new project.

Utilizing Google Compute Engine, Google Storage (GCS, Persistent Disk, and Filestore), VPN, VPC, folders, projects, and IAM, Taos laid the infrastructure foundations that the new app stack would be built upon. Hybrid connectivity was also set up using VPN tunnels, Cloud Router, Shared VPC, and Cloud Router, and firewall rules, Taos deployed standard GCP-official RedHat Enterprise Linux 7 instances on Compute Engine to the customer’s specifications. Finally, the application itself was redeployed with a clean installation by the application support vendor using their standard processes.

The Taos resource worked side-by-side with 1199’s internal teams, training them and imparting the new knowledge necessary for them to be self-sustaining after the project was finished. Taos successfully delivered the GCP infrastructure foundation and re-built application stack to 1199, helping them to begin their cloud journey on the right foot. The new app stack is robust and scalable, allows them to take advantage of the latest features and capabilities of SAS, and prepares them for continued transformation in the future.

Our relationship with 1199 did not stop when the initial migration was complete. Identifying that it would not be cost or time effective for their internal resources to run the new GCP environment, the client signed on with Taos Managed Services. We provide 24/7/236 monitoring, management, and optimization for their cloud infrastructure. Taos and 1199 also plan to partner on additional transformation initiatives as the client continues to modernize and implement an agile, multi-face approach.

Taos, headquartered in San Jose, California, empowers enterprises to operate efficiently, rapidly innovate, and scale their business. As a comprehensive Technology Solutions Partner for over 30 years, Taos simplifies today’s complex digital landscape by providing strategic guidance and technical expertise while implementing transformative solutions. We specialize in consulting, migration, and 24x7x365 operations powered by our Cloud and DevOps practices. For more information, please visit taos.com.