Why Companion Data Services Adopted AWS as a Platform for Cloud

COMPANION
DATA SERVICES®

A CELERIAN GROUP COMPANY

The Challenge

Companion Data Services, LLC (CDS) recognized the need to work faster and be more agile when responding to customer requests. In general, requests for internal information technology (IT) resources have grown costly and may take more time than cloud hosted solutions to set up. We recognized this business problem and sought to identify internal opportunities to pilot our projects in a cloud hosted environment.

CDS is committed to supporting our sister company, Palmetto GBA, with improvements for day to day activities including demonstrations of proprietary health care workflow software.

We realized the cost of standing up a unique test instance for demonstrations was cost prohibitive, less flexible and difficult to prioritize. To avoid added cost, Palmetto GBA conducted these demonstrations on live test instances requiring extensive review to clean data and ensure no Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) information was inadvertently shared. Palmetto GBA and CDS identified a pilot project to test public cloud functionality by loading the application with innocuous data to test flexibility, reliability and infrastructure costs.

COMPANION
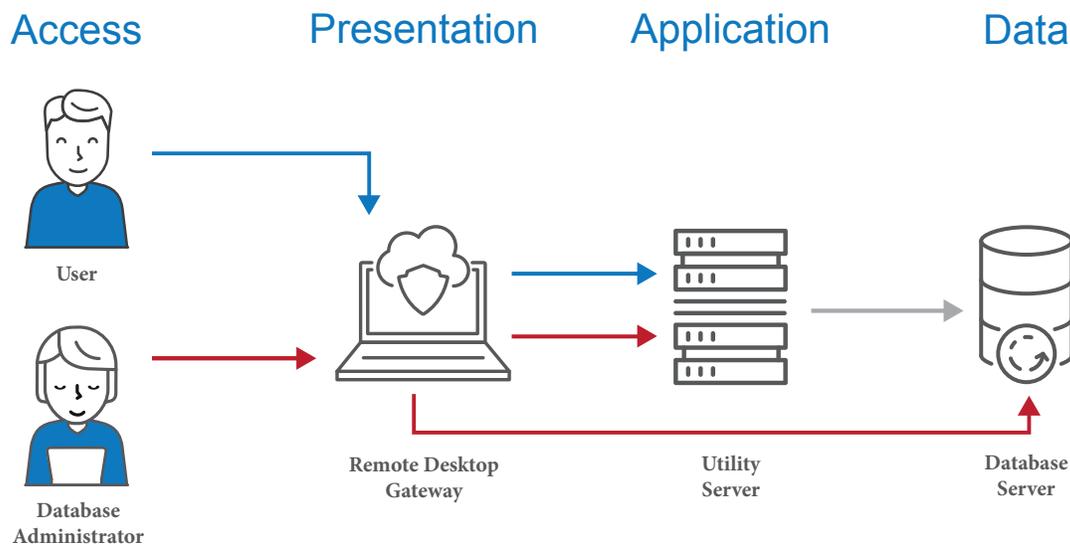**DATA SERVICES®**

A CELERIAN GROUP COMPANY

Why Amazon Web Services

CDS considered on-premises virtualization solutions as well as other cloud providers. Ultimately, Amazon Web Services (AWS) was chosen because it is a mature, cost-effective solution, which is easy to set up and administer. It also provides enough flexibility to turn infrastructure on and off. The ability to turn AWS test environments on and off means that Palmetto GBA will only pay for the servers during a demonstration.

Launching an Application on AWS

Using AWS, we installed and delivered the demonstration system within one month of understanding the application requirements and designing the necessary AWS infrastructure.

Since deploying this workflow application on AWS, Palmetto GBA has been able to reduce overhead associated with application demonstrations. The following figure illustrates the use of the AWS Remote Desktop Gateway to access Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (Amazon EC2) instances where the application is installed.

CDS Application Concept Diagram on AWS

The Benefits

CDS and Palmetto GBA significantly reduced the overhead associated with application demonstrations. Previously, two to four hours were invested to scrub test data that would have HIPAA compliance implications. A demonstration now runs with minimal preparation and no concern for inappropriate data.

You Don't Have to Own **IT** to Control **IT**[SM]