Altadia Group boosts SAP
performance with Google Cloud

< 1 week

to benchmark on-premises performance to Google Cloud Platform

SAP on GCP

provides improved SAP performance after a big merger that formed the Altadia Group

Potential

unlocked for further innovation and growth, thanks to increased flexibility and security

Client

Altadia Group

Industry

Manufacturing

Platform

Google Cloud

Services

SAP Services; Proof of Concept for SAP on GCP migration, set up test environment, Landing Zone on GCP

Country

Spain

Based in Spain, the Altadia Group manufactures glazes, colours, inks and other materials for the ceramic tile industry worldwide. Following a merger, the company knew it needed to modernise its IT systems and began exploring alternatives to its on-premises SAP system. Working with SoftwareOne and Google, Altadia successfully migrated its SAP system to Google Cloud Platform, gaining superior performance, cost savings, and unparalleled flexibility for innovation.

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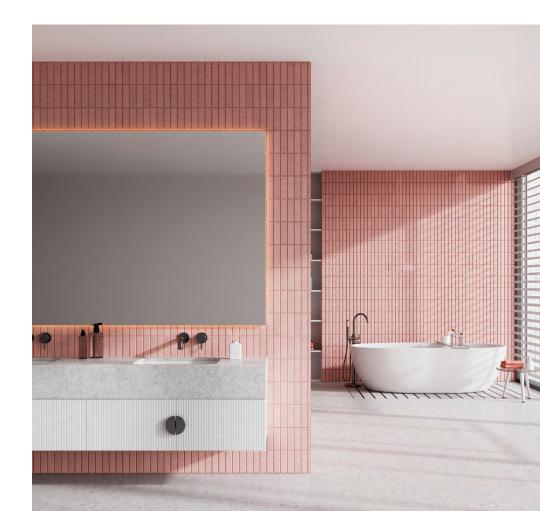>
> Ernesto Plaza, CIO,
> Altadia Group

The challenge

A post-merger need for IT modernisation

The Altadia Group is now the world's largest manufacturer of frits, glazes, colours and inks for the ceramic tile industry. The company was formed following the merger of Esmalglass-Itaca and Ferro Tile Coatings. An increased global presence and the pooling of the two businesses' expertise enable the group to provide its customers with highly innovative solutions that are tailored to their needs and local requirements. Digital manufacturing processes that are environmentally friendly, flexible and cost-efficient have never been so important and this requires investment in the latest and most innovative technologies. Having audited its existing systems, the Altadia Group realised that, alongside investment, it needed to look for support from third-party specialists.

Before the merger, a single centralised SAP system connected all related companies. The system worked with other IT services, including SAP Process Integration (PI) for e-invoicing and a data warehouse that ran on local servers in a main data centre, with a second data centre providing replication for backup. Following the formation of the Altadia Group, the company faced the challenge of almost doubling its number of employees, as well as an increase in the number of systems, each of which needed to be integrated into one single SAP system.

With the complexity of the integration having become clear to the team at Altadia, the organisation began considering a move to the cloud. The main priorities of the SAP systems modernisation project were to ensure it was more scalable and flexible while improving reliability and security. Considering its options, the company turned to SoftwareOne and Google, two companies with which it had collaborated on other IT projects over the course of the previous 10 years.

software **One**

The solution

Proof of concept makes the case for migration

Less than one week after SoftwareOne and Google proposed a proof of concept, Altadia had a test environment set up that enabled it to verify the technical feasibility of the cloud migration project while obtaining metrics and making performance comparisons.

The test environment enabled the team to carry out in-depth tests, measuring the latency, as well as the performance of the application front ends and databases on Google, and compare test results to the incumbent on-premises system. The team was also able to run tests on different system types, and on models based on different scenarios.

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> We were surprised when the results showed that SAP on Google could not only match the performance of our existing SAP environment, but even improve on it. The ability to grow and scale in a flexible way was key to our decision, as well as the peace of mind and confidence in the process, thanks to the SoftwareOne team and Google Cloud.
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SoftwareOne then created a migration roadmap of the entire infrastructure to enable a smooth and effective transition of all SAP environments, including SAP HANA, to Google Cloud. This included building the landing zone on Google Cloud Platform alongside setting up code deployments for different SAP environments. This was completed at the same time as installing virtual machines (VMs) and establishing security features and permissions that provided a means of interlinking systems within the different environments.

After Altadia's SAP integration team performed the actual migration of the SAP environment and upgrade, SoftwareOne pulled the logs, moved them to a SIEM and further supported the team by migrating other environments to Google Cloud, including newly hosted SAP machines that still needed to be upgraded to the new version.

software**One**

The outcome

- **Improved performance and cost savings**
  The entire migration to Google Cloud Platform was carried out without Altadia's end users noticing anything other than improved system performance. Using the incentives provided by the SAP Cloud Acceleration Program (CAP), Altadia substantially reduced project costs.

- **Greater flexibility**
  Using Google Cloud Platform, Altadia has customised virtual machines and machines for SAP NetWeaver. These are not only economically competitive and deliver improved performance but can be scaled up or down depending on Altadia's needs. The company's commitment to using these is based solely on CPU and RAM usage, so there is no need for upfront payments or lock-ins to certain technologies. The flexibility provided by GCP is critical as the group continues to focus on innovation and growth, and as internal technology demands become more complex as a result

- **Reduced risk**
  The risks of IT disaster are almost non-existent, thanks to fully synchronous replication and local backups. Additional replication in other geographical areas provides a further layer of security. With Google's own worldwide network and encryption by default, Altadia is assured of better end-to-end SAP performance

- **Zero downtime for VM maintenance**
  When Altadia needs to maintain its virtual machines, Google's Live migration technology ensures zero downtime.

- **Systems optimisation**
  Google allows SAP environments to be downloaded with data warehousing as a service. And Altadia can use Google Analytics tools to understand and exploit data, apply machine learning (ML) to SAP business processes and utilise SAP functionality within its APIs. This helps the company to strengthen its systems – for example, by improving its monitoring systems and analysing the data generated by these systems.

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