



Customer success story

Savvas Learning empowers global education with scalable AWS platform

Redesigning its content management platform for the cloud helped Savvas enhance performance, reduce costs, and provide flexible digital learning experiences for students worldwide.

The challenge

For online education providers, content management platforms are a core capability. They're where content editors, authors, and developers generate everything from curricula and tests to grades and even textbooks. Savvas Learning Company, a leader in K-12 next-generation learning, needed a flexible and scalable platform that would enable its employees to deliver high-demand academic content and manage usage spikes, and also reduce the company's data storage costs and management overhead.

The solution

Cognizant partnered with Savvas to design and build a scalable content management platform on AWS. The content development and authoring functionalities were part of Savvas' publishing operation and formed the company's core online publishing platform.

Scalability was a key goal. AWS computing resources enable Savvas to easily auto-adjust its infrastructure to handle increased user traffic without requiring substantial capital investment. High availability and redundancy options such as Amazon ELB (Elastic Load Balancer) and autoscaling ensure smooth user experiences even during times of peak demand such as the start of the school year or post-vacation.

To help Savvas organize and retrieve content effectively, Cognizant utilized scalable storage and solutions like Amazon S3, AWS EFS (Elastic File System), and AWS EBS (Elastic Block Store). This approach considerably reduced data load and improved performance.

Savvas also sought to optimize its overall costs. Cost management tools such as AWS Cost Explorer and AWS Budgets enabled the company to better balance infrastructure costs and budget constraints. Transitioning the application's Database Management System (DBMS) from Oracle to AWS open-source MySQL resulted in lower licensing costs.

To enable Savvas to maintain and continuously improve the content management tools' overall performance, we implemented AWS monitoring tools and operations to collect performance data.

Instead of refactoring and re-architecting Savvas' legacy content management tools, Cognizant implemented serverless features AWS Fargate, ECS (Elastic Container Service), and AWS Lambda services. This approach greatly reduced the operational burdens like patching, monitoring, and security compliances. It also significantly optimized the infrastructure setup and management activities.

A digital content management platform

Now, content editors, authors, and developers can access Savvas's content management platform from anywhere to seamlessly generate curricula, test data and online textbooks for students and teachers with the help of AWS services.

Tech stack

AAWS EC2 instances, AWS ECS (Elastic Container Service), Lambda, AWS Elastic Load Balancers (ELB), ASG (Auto Scaling Group), RDS (Relational Database Service), Mark Logic, Route 53, EFS (Elastic File System), S3, EBS (Elastic Block Store), IAM (Identity and Access Management), Trusted Advisor, CloudTrail, CloudWatch, SNS (Simple Notification Service), SQS (Simple Queue Service), AWS MSK (Amazon Managed Streaming for Apache Kafka), Terraform, and AWS CI/CD (Continuous Integration and Continuous Delivery/Continuous Deployment) tools.

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