Global Financial Services Leader Modernizes Big Data on Robin

Wealth management and investment banking leader uses Robin to create a programmable, self-service platform that enables data-driven decision making across the organization

Company Overview

This financial services leader, founded over a century ago, has over $1T in assets under management and maintains offices in all major financial centers across the globe. Their core services include wealth management, investment banking, private banking, and other financial services, capitalizing on both mature markets as well as significant opportunities in Asia Pacific and other emerging markets.

Critical Challenges

The company had recently made a strategic decision to embark on a digital transformation journey, with one of the primary goals being to become a data-driven organization. A new, executive-level committee was formed to oversee the process of harnessing the value of the mountains of data that were stored within the organization. Key to this objective is ensuring that their data scientists have fast, easy access to the IT resources and the data they need to analyze. This is where the company ran into some challenges with how they had been addressing this need, including:

- **Many projects requiring each department to procure IT resources: compute, storage, or networking**

- **This was both expensive, making cost justification nearly impossible, and slow, taking weeks or months to get infrastructure in place**

- **If using shared resources, the company had no accurate way to charge for specific projects, creating an accounting nightmare**

- **No easy or automated way for data scientists to prescriptively provision which resources and data sets they needed for their analysis, leading to slowdowns**

Highlights

Industry

- Financial services

Challenges Resolved

- Delayed app provisioning
- Expensive procurement of resources per project
- Underutilized hardware
- Administrative complexity

Business Benefits

- Data science as-a-Service
- Faster data-driven decisions and faster time-to-market for new services
- Reduced provisioning time from weeks to minutes
- Lowered CapEx and OpEx
- Eliminated the need to overprovision systems

Solution

The company looked at other automation tools, and ultimately were planning to completely design their own solution to these problems, which likely would have taken years to complete. However, Robin was able to demonstrate how they could address their issues and create a 'programmable' platform for its data science team. This starts with Robin's application automation platform and the app-store like experience for provisioning and managing big data applications. The company's data science team is now able to focus on their job with the resources they need at their disposal, and are able to spin down those resources when projects are completed.

The first example of this was with the big data application Cloudera. Robin was able to quickly provision Cloudera clusters within minutes, and with complete application pipeline visibility into other big data components such as data dictionaries and columnar and tabular elements, allowed the data science team to create a tailored environment for their specific needs. By making this process repeatable and customizable to each individual project, Robin has given the company exactly what it needed: a flexible, automated platform on which to become a data-driven organization.

The Robin platform includes built-in storage, networking, and application management to deliver a production-ready solution for managing big data applications. The Robin platform provides:

One-click manageability for the entire suite of applications: Robin provides the ability to wrap the entire application pipeline into a single entity (called a bundle), and provide an app store experience to data scientists.

One-click scale out and scale up: Robin provides a self-service interface where data scientists can easily scale out or scale up individual applications.

Chargeback: The Robin platform provides an easy way for the company to charge for the resources used on a per-project basis, alleviating the accounting issues plaguing them.

Business Benefits

By deploying the Robin application automation platform, the company has been able to:

Accelerate time to data-driven decisions and bringing new services to market: Robin's one-click cloning makes it simple to preserve and share the application state across dev, QA, staging, and production environments. By using the Robin platform, the company has reduced provisioning time from weeks to minutes, and lifecycle management tasks from hours to minutes, speeding time to market for new services.

Increase data science productivity: The ability to deploy, scale, snapshot, clone, and migrate using simple one-click operations made their data science teams much more efficient. This also saves valuable time for developers as they build new services and have to deploy and test the applications multiple times every day.

Eliminate IT tickets for repetitive tasks: The new data science-as-a-service environment has eliminated the need to create IT tickets for database or big data application provisioning and hardware allocation, since data scientists and developers can now create and manage their applications with just one click.

Higher utilization of existing infrastructure: The ability to use existing infrastructure helps the company more easily cost justify new projects and avoids having to procure new resources that can be expensive and time consuming.

Achieve higher user satisfaction: The ability to quickly deploy 'instant-on', customized big data clusters in support of the data-driven model has lead to higher user satisfaction.

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