THALES

How CloudHealth Enables Thales DIS' FinOps Strategy

Industry
Information technology and services

Headquarters location
Paris, France

Employees
10,000+

VMware footprint
CloudHealth®

Key features
Rightsizing
Reserved Instance recommendations
Savings Plans recommendations
Budget forecasting

Cloud
AWS

Key benefits
• Better cost control and monitoring

• Granular insights of their
  AWS environment

• Increased accountability
  and confidence

Thales Digital Identity and Security (DIS) is a multifaceted enterprise, providing IT and security services for Internet of Things (IoT) government programs, banking, mobile encryption and biometrics. Thales DIS provides solutions, services and products to help customers fulfill their critical missions by placing humans at the heart of the decision-making process. Jean-Jacques Morris, FinOps manager for the cloud center of excellence (CCoE) at Thales DIS, presented at the AWS Cloud Financial Management Workshop from VMware, sharing best practices for developing a FinOps strategy with CloudHealth.

Journey to the cloud

Thales DIS began their journey to the cloud after recognizing the benefits of Amazon Web Services (AWS), which provides cloud services at a lower cost than their private data centers. The team quickly moved a dozen legacy solutions to AWS by lifting and shifting, the main objective being to keep customers happy while respecting the service-level agreement.

After implementing AWS, Thales DIS had difficulty controlling cloud costs. Within their CCoE team, the FinOps team was created and tasked with controlling and monitoring the costs of the public cloud, but the cloud provider's native tools they were using were not able to answer all their needs. They soon recognized the need for a comprehensive cloud management platform to attain visibility into their growing cloud environment and to implement cost optimization practices.

"CloudHealth answered all our needs in terms of performance, cost and the user friendliness of the tool. It was important for us to have one tool that could centralize cost visibility across our different cloud environments."

Jean-Jacques Morris, FinOps Manager, CCoE, Thales DIS

CloudHealth
by **vm**ware®

Implementing CloudHealth

Thales DIS chose CloudHealth for its ability to centralize costs and implement their FinOps strategy. "CloudHealth answered all our needs in terms of performance, cost and the user friendliness of the tool. It was important for us to have one tool that could centralize cost visibility across our different cloud environments," shared Morris.

Thales DIS shared the CloudHealth data with their technical teams to demonstrate how to accelerate their business transformation. "By providing the right reports and tooling to show results, we changed the mindset of senior leadership," Morris shared.

Thales DIS' FinOps strategy

There are three main prongs of Thales DIS' FinOps strategy: monitoring, optimizing and forecasting. Within each prong, CloudHealth offers specific capabilities to help them achieve their goals:

• Monitor – View month-to-date costs, daily average costs, and unusual trends.

• Optimize – Set alert thresholds and establish tagging best practices.

• Forecast – Estimate future needs and purchase discounts.

Thales DIS can control and monitor their monthly budgets much more easily with CloudHealth. CloudHealth alerts Thales DIS when thresholds are met, allowing the team to make adjustments before surpassing their budget. Thales

DIS also works with their internal security team to identify potential threats or misconfigurations, and ensure tagging rules are followed.

The CloudHealth rightsizing engine analyzes Thales DIS' usage and easily identifies potential optimizations for Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2) instances. CloudHealth then provides recommendations to downgrade or upgrade those instances, and sends reports to project managers so the appropriate action is taken. "Each report makes decision-making simple and directs stakeholders to take action on the recommendations," Morris highlighted.

> "Together with CloudHealth, we are producing impressive business results. CloudHealth is a tool that's very complementary to FinOps—they can't exist without one another."
>
> Jean-Jacques Morris, FinOps Manager, CCoE, Thales DIS

Thales DIS also leverages the CloudHealth Reserved Instance (RI) and Savings Plans recommendations. CloudHealth provides granular RI recommendations based on historical usage that help optimize future costs. CloudHealth also summarizes the costs and benefits of six different Compute Savings Plans after you set your desired cost savings, coverage or hourly commitment.

Thales DIS uses a CloudHealth report that categorizes their EC2 ecosystem by operating system, allowing the team to make cost-effective decisions about moving development environments to the cloud. The report shows optimized cost by region, ensuring all customers are accommodated and happy.

Another key CloudHealth feature Thales DIS leverages is budget forecasting. Thales DIS' key business stakeholders need to know where costs will be incurred in the future. CloudHealth collects 13 months of past usage data to predict future costs, allowing Thales DIS to easily forecast total cloud costs for future quarters.

Learn how CloudHealth can transform the way your organization operates in the cloud.

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