Case Study:

Transforming a Top Global Finance Company into a Hybrid Cloud Infrastructure:

SSO/Rest enables an enterprise-wide app migration to the Cloud, eliminating 95% of SSO web agents and preserving full access management protection

To harness the efficiency, flexibility, and scalability available through Cloud computing, a multinational, Fortune 500 financial services company had made a business decision to begin a large-scale migration of applications from the corporate data center to the Cloud. Roughly 75% of the company's apps were targeted for migration to Microsoft Azure, with the remainder destined for various Cloud Foundry providers.

However, the technological challenges posed by the transition appeared to be daunting, if not prohibitive. The company's existing Web Access Management (WAM) infrastructure, built upon CA Single Sign-On, simply could not be extended to cover Cloud-based applications in a way that would retain full functionality and protection. The technology, with its bulky agents and proprietary network protocols, was never engineered to function with off-premises systems and was effectively Cloud-incompatible.

The company was facing a serious problem: they were committed to their existing WAM platform: they had been running CA Single Sign-On for over a decade and had invested substantial time and resources in integrating it with their applications – with over fourteen *thousand* CA Single Sign-On web agents currently running. Additionally, the tool was fully integrated into their operational and business processes.

Now, to comply with their business-driven Cloud strategy, they found themselves facing the prospect of:

- decommissioning *years* of integration work
- redoing multiple application security and operational processes
- changing business processes, and
- retraining technical staff.

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The expense would have been substantial and the risk of disruption to smooth business operation would have been significant. Even if a one-to-one replacement *were* possible (and it was not, without loss of crucial security functionality), everything would have had to change. Such a "big bang" scenario was in direct opposition to the company's desire to implement its Cloud migration in an orderly and stepwise manner.

IDF Connect's SSO/REST provided them with an elegant way out: it opened a clear and feasible path to realizing their goal of becoming a hybrid cloud infrastructure company – while

still allowing them to keep their existing WAM infrastructure, avoid changing business processes, and actually reduce the operational burden of their existing WAM solution.

SSO/Rest's lightweight, HTTP-based plugins replaced the Company' heavy, vendor-proprietary WAM agents. The self-contained plugins, simple to integrate, transparent to the application, and designed for Cloud-based operation, effectively extended the reach of their enterprise perimeter to encompass applications that were no longer located on premises. The hardened SSO/Rest Gateway, securely located in the enterprise DMZ, safely mediates communication between the plugins and the Company's CA SSO Policy Servers. From the perspective of both administrators and end-users, nothing has changed.

"Where are we going from here? Growth, growth, and more growth."

Today, the company has nearly 400 applications – a major chunk of their IT infrastructure – either in production or preproduction *in* the Cloud, using SSO/REST. They are on track to meet an end-of-2019 goal of replacing 95% of their CA SSO web agents with the lightweight, low footprint Cloud-enabled SSO/REST plugins.

"Where are we going from here? Growth, growth, and more growth. Our footprint is ever increasing, we are continuously expanding our available features such as biometric MFA, adding new supported platforms, migrating applications from the CA SSO Web Agent to the SSO/Rest plugin, and hiring more engineers with CA SSO experience," reported a senior project engineer.

By implementing SSO/REST, the company has succeeded in rapidly moving forward with their hybrid cloud strategy; when completed, the entire migration, from start to finish, will have taken just under three years. Today, they are already well-positioned to leverage the efficiency, flexibility, and scalability of the Cloud. Crucially, they have done this while:

- avoiding expensive new integration costs and operational disruption;
- bringing down their total cost of ownership;
- simplifying their maintenance burden; and
- maintaining the full level of protection that their existing enterprise WAM solution has been providing.

With IDF Connect's SSO/REST, the company is achieving their Cloud-business objectives by *extending* – rather than replacing – a core enterprise tool; and they are doing so without sacrificing any of the security which their reputation relies upon.

Contact us:

Learn more about how IDF Connect's SSO/Rest can Cloud-enable your applications and protect them with your current Access Management platform - just as if they were in your data center. Please contact us for more information, or to schedule a demo.

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