

# Move to Google Cloud Reduces IT Infrastructure Costs

**Industry**  
Healthcare

**Technologies**

- Google Cloud Platform
- Google Compute
- Active Directory
- Elasticsearch
- Graylog
- Jenkins
- MongoDB
- MySQL
- PostgreSQL

**Solution**

- Cloud Migration

## Faced with aging on-premises hardware and high replacement costs, a global healthcare company moved its globally distributed data centers to Google Cloud Platform

Replacing computer hardware is costly and can place a large financial burden on an organization. One Canadian clinical data company faced this issue and knew it was ready for a change. The company made the strategic decision to move from its on-premises data centers to Google Cloud. With five data environments located across the globe, this migration needed to be managed with care and without disruption to the business.

By migrating its environments to Google Cloud, the company:

- Saved money by eliminating upfront hardware costs
- Improved system reliability through an up-to-date cloud infrastructure
- Poised itself for growth into new markets with a scalable solution

The business asked Google to recommend a qualified partner to lead the initiative—one with proven experience. The answer was Pythian.

In 11 weeks, Pythian migrated all five environments to Google Cloud Platform.

## Challenges

Over the years, the healthcare company's IT infrastructure became dated and was set to expire. Leadership made the strategic decision to move all on-premise systems to the cloud to:

- **Manage costs.** The business wanted to avoid the capital expense of new IT hardware.
- **Support global production environments.** General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) require strict control of customer data by region. The new Google Cloud environment would maintain compliance.
- **Stay current with technology.** The cloud platform offers the company added flexibility and options when choosing new applications and services.

## Solutions

The company engaged Pythian as a trusted partner to develop and execute a comprehensive migration strategy. The process included:

- **Inventorying all services and hardware.** Pythian developed a detailed map of every system and machine in each data center as the company moved everything to the cloud platform.
- **Identifying dependent services.** To determine which applications and services needed to move to the cloud simultaneously or in a specific order, Pythian's experts assessed the co-dependencies of each system.
- **Determining migration waves.** Once everything was mapped out, the Pythian team identified several dozen waves to perform to complete the project.

## Results

With the new Google Cloud environments, the healthcare data provider now has:

- **Reduced costs.** The company has all hosting and solutions under a pay-as-you-go plan, avoiding significant upfront capital expenses.
- **Scalable infrastructure.** Healthcare data is multiplying, and with Google Cloud, the company's data environments are scalable and secure.
- **Global control.** Keeping each data environment in the host country maintained compliance with international data regulations and defined a strategy for entering new regions.

## Updating aging data centers required significant capital outlay or a cloud migration

On-premises environments have their drawbacks, namely the resources needed to maintain and replace computer hardware. The company had numerous data centers, including production centers in Canada, the United States and Europe. These diverse environments were necessary to comply with GDPR and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), and each had dated infrastructure.

## Trusting the proven experts at Pythian to migrate to Google Cloud


Google introduced the company to the experts at Pythian, who had extensive experience with migrations to Google Cloud and handling sensitive healthcare data protected by HIPAA and other patient privacy laws. Pythian used Google Compute to migrate many applications during the project—including Active Directory, Elasticsearch, Graylog, Jenkins, MongoDB, MySQL and PostgreSQL—to the new cloud environment.

## Seamless migration to Google Cloud in several weeks, reaping cost savings with no disruption to the business

At the end of 11 weeks, Pythian completed the migration and trained the client on the remaining final tasks. The company experienced uninterrupted operations and remained compliant with GDPR laws by isolating its data by region. The healthcare company avoided significant capital investments in computer hardware and experienced better system performance by moving to the cloud.

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## ABOUT PYTHIAN

Founded in 1997, Pythian is a global IT services company that helps organizations transform how they compete and win by helping them turn data into valuable insights, predictions and products. From cloud automation to machine learning, Pythian designs, implements and supports customized solutions to the toughest data challenges.

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