Porsche Informatik delivers automotive innovation faster with Red Hat OpenShift

PORSCHE
INFORMATIK

Porsche Informatik, IT service provider for the Volkswagen Group, needed to speed application development and delivery to stay competitive in a fast-paced global market. The organization used Red Hat OpenShift to create a private cloud container environment. Porsche Informatik's developers can now take advantage of self-service capabilities, and teams across the organization can work together more effectively with a DevOps approach supporting continuous integration and delivery (CI/CD) workflows. As a result, Porsche Informatik has cut development time from weeks to hours and created a solid foundation to stay ahead of competition.

Software and services

Red Hat® OpenShift®

Red Hat Satellite (now Red Hat Smart Management)

Red Hat Enterprise Linux®

Red Hat Technical Account Management

Partner

eww ITandTEL

Salzburg, Austria ●

Headquarters

IT services

655 employees

Benefits

- Reduced development times from 5-6 weeks to hours with self-service provisioning

- Established DevOps community for more engaged teamwork

- Gained support for early adoption of container technology to outpace competition

"*Our old approach involved several teams and lots of round of approvals, and we'd need sometimes as long as six weeks to develop an application. Today, with Red Hat OpenShift, we can have a prototype available within hours.*"

Simon Waldner
System Engineer,
Porsche Informatik

Red Hat Innovators in the Open

About Red Hat Innovators in the Open

Innovation is the core of open source. Red Hat customers use open source technologies to change not only their own organizations but also entire industries and markets. Red Hat Innovators in the Open proudly showcases how our customers use enterprise open source solutions to solve their toughest business challenges. Want to share your story? Learn more.

Speeding application development as automotive industry shifts to digital

Porsche Informatik provides IT services to the Volkswagen Group. Millions of users at car dealerships, workshops, importers, logistics companies, and financial service providers depend on its systems. The organization provides and manages 160 solutions available in 30 countries.

To help shape the digital future of the automotive industry, Porsche Informatik is focused on becoming agile by design to rapidly create and deploy new, digital applications. This goal not only involves a cultural shift to more iterative, agile development but also replacement of the organization's legacy IT infrastructure and management solutions.

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Michael Hinterland
Team Lead, ICS Cloud & Automation and
ICS System & Middleware,
Porsche Informatik

"Time to market is critical," said Michael Hinterland, Team Lead, ICS Cloud & Automation and ICS System and Middleware, Porsche Informatik. "In this industry, you're either first to market, or the first loser. We want to migrate our legacy infrastructure to a platform that can help us build cloud-native applications quickly."

Migrating to a container-based, cloud-native platform with Red Hat OpenShift

Porsche Informatik decided to migrate its application infrastructure to Red Hat OpenShift. The organization has used Red Hat Enterprise Linux since 2015 and worked with datacenter provider and Red Hat partner eww ITandTEL in 2017 to establish a private cloud environment.

"Our corporate ambition is to become a leader in modern software development and to achieve that goal with in-house talent," said Hinterland. "Kubernetes has become the de facto standard for Linux container development, making Red Hat OpenShift the clear choice in container technology for us."

Based on the Kubernetes container orchestration standard, Red Hat OpenShift provides a stable container platform environment for end-user-facing applications, as well as continuous integration and delivery (CI/CD) pipeline support for development teams. Porsche Informatik also adopted Red Hat Satellite, part of Red Hat Smart Management, to efficiently manage its Red Hat Enterprise Linux and Red Hat OpenShift infrastructure.

With help from eww ITandTEL and a Red Hat Technical Account Manager (TAM), the organization migrated to Red Hat OpenShift running on-premise in its datacenter in just six weeks. The platform now hosts development processes across thousands of containers on 75 nodes, used regularly by more than 350 developers.

Leading the industry in next-generation software development

Reduced development time from weeks to hours

With a container-based, cloud-native development environment, Porsche Informatik has established self-service capabilities for its development teams. Developers can provision services and infrastructure independent of the organization's infrastructure team.

Additionally, administrators can more easily implement and enforce security and other policies across teams and clusters using Red Hat OpenShift's unified management console. Red Hat Smart Management helps keep Porsche Informatik's Red Hat infrastructure solutions up to date, protected from vulnerabilities, and in compliance with various standards.

As a result, applications and services can be built, tested, and launched to market 90% faster than before.

"Our old approach involved several teams and lots of round of approvals, and we'd need sometimes as long as six weeks to deploy an application. Today, with Red Hat OpenShift, we can have a prototype available within hours," said Waldner.

Established collaborative community with DevOps

Adopting a more agile, collaborative DevOps approach, supported by Red Hat OpenShift, has helped Porsche Informatik unite its IT teams. Now, developers, architects, infrastructure experts, and platform teams can work together more effectively to build and update innovative applications and services—in a way that removes repetitive, unnecessary work and takes advantage of their key strengths.

"With changes like adopting self-service, There's a greater sense of responsibility and ownerships, especially in our development teams. Our developers are more invested, because they don't need to rely on others for the tools they need to innovate," said Hinterland. "Now, for the first time, key stakeholders are working together on what's next. We've created a true technology community."

Built in-house container expertise with Red Hat guidance

One of Porsche Informatik's key goals in being an early adopter of OpenShift was to become proficient with container technology ahead of the competition and become a leader in modern software development.

To build its teams' skills with OpenShift and Kubernetes, the organization continues to work closely with its Red Hat Technical Account Manager after initial deployment.

"Our TAM has become a part of the team. He's built labs at Red Hat to reproduce and solve issues—and even discovered issues before they've affected our system performance," said Hinterland. "He's shown that he really understands the platform and our environment. With his help, we've been able to avoid lengthy support calls and really discovered how we can optimize our platform to build faster, launch faster, and remain an industry leader."

Accelerating global agility with public cloud

After successfully adopting Red Hat OpenShift, Porsche Informatik is exploring how the latest version, Red Hat OpenShift 4, could provide new capabilities to continue its modern application development journey.

"Our sights are set on deploying Red Hat OpenShift on a public cloud sometime in the future, with core system access through defined, web-based APIs [application programming interfaces]," said Hinterland. "Our goal is to use RedHat OpenShift to provide our applications for internal and end users across 26 countries, from Chile to Malaysia."

About Porsche Informatik

Porsche Informatik provides IT services to the Volkswagen Group. It combines decades of expertise in IT and the car trade with a holistic vision for the digital transformation of the automotive industry. porscheinformatik.com/en/

About Red Hat

Red Hat is the world's leading provider of enterprise open source software solutions, using a community-powered approach to deliver reliable and high-performing Linux, hybrid cloud, container, and Kubernetes technologies. Red Hat helps customers integrate new and existing IT applications, develop cloud-native applications, standardize on our industry-leading operating system, and automate, secure, and manage complex environments. Award-winning support, training, and consulting services make Red Hat a trusted adviser to the Fortune 500. As a strategic partner to cloud providers, system integrators, application vendors, customers, and open source communities, Red Hat can help organizations prepare for the digital future.

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