Cloud-native development for insurance

Choosing your cloud-native path

There is no debate that technology has changed the expectations of your policyholders. Access to policies, claims information, and services anytime, anywhere is no longer a luxury—it is a requirement. For IT organizations, pressure has never been greater to deliver higher-quality applications more often to help insurers stay relevant and seize digital business opportunities.

Cloud-native development is an approach to building applications that takes advantage of cloud computing models and DevOps principles to make the delivery of new features and services faster and more flexible. With a cloud-native strategy, insurers are better equipped to meet customer demand, adapt to industry dynamics and world events, and be more resilient with scalable applications that deliver business innovation faster.

This checklist will assess your needs and possible business impacts to help you choose a cloud-native platform that benefits your business, developers, and IT operations team.

1 Enable developer productivity

- Do you struggle to give developers the freedom to build to customer needs using their chosen toolset?
- Does your choice of vendor limit your developers' choices?
- Do you need new technologies to attract new developer talent to your organization?
- Are application development choices complicating your infrastructure operations?
- Do you want to provide the agility of cloud computing to developers' local laptops?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, consider an open source cloud-native development platform. Maintaining flexible tools gives your developers the choice they need to succeed.

2 Capitalize on existing investments

- Do you continue to invest in more infrastructure while you have underutilized capacity?
- Are long delivery times for feature updates negatively impacting your organization?
- Do you want to take advantage of the agility of the public cloud but are hampered by your existing legacy applications?
- Are existing applications excluded from your DevOps initiative?
- Are you slowed by the inability to easily port your existing applications to your infrastructure of choice?
- Are you considering an incremental approach to modernizing existing applications?
- Does your existing middleware fall short in supporting DevOps and microservices principles?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you should evaluate full-stack vendors that have an open philosophy. These vendors allow you to use your existing knowledge base and applications.

3 Maximize your choice

- Do you have the majority of your applications on a single cloud environment (e.g., Amazon Web Services, Google, Microsoft Azure)?
- Do you want the ability to move an application from one cloud provider to another without heavy code changes?
- Do you want the ability to move applications across multiple cloud infrastructures?
- Do you want to take advantage of products and services from different cloud providers?
- Do you have more than one environment to support development, test, and production for multiple application development life-cycle stages?

- Do you want to adopt modern application architectures without changing your current infrastructure?
- Do you want the speed of microservices without the management complexity?
- Do you see serverless architecture as an alternative for future applications?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, it is important to confirm that your cloud-native platform is actually open (not a mix of open and proprietary solutions) and based on widely adopted industry standards. True application portability will allow you to maintain control of your environment.

4 Make security a top priority

- Do you want your applications to be shared across your enterprise architecture?
- Do you want to give developers a choice of technology but are concerned about the security risks?
- Does security from malicious users or poorly written code cause concerns in your current environment?
- Do you need the security assurances of tested and proven enterprise technologies?
- Do you want proactive security tools that inform your teams about security vulnerabilities before the public does?
- Do you want your technology to enable rapid security response to viral vulnerabilities?
- Do you want to adopt containers and Kubernetes but are concerned about security assurance and longevity?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, you should evaluate whether a cloud-native platform will keep your applications and IT infrastructure secure—and determine if that security will work throughout your stack.

Conclusion

Red Hat® OpenShift® Container Platform and Red Hat Middleware create a foundation of open source tools and technologies that empower developers to design, develop, deploy, and integrate cloud-native applications across any cloud infrastructure. Our container platform enables insurers to continue their cloud journey, introducing a modern DevOps methodology while providing the flexibility to build and run scalable applications regardless of the environment.

Red Hat OpenShift Container Platform offers:

- Flexibility to adopt modern architectures like microservices.
- Tools your developers need, including Spring Boot, Thorntail, Eclipse Vert.x, Java™ EE 6/7, .NET Core, Rails, Django, Play, Sinatra, and Zend.
- Choice of languages, including Java, Node.js, Ruby, PHP, Python, and Perl.
- Kubernetes to orchestrate and manage application containers at scale.

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