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aws partner network

Executive Summary

Customer started cloud transformation and needed to create a solution for several Microsoft servers in AWS. First, utilize shared licenses among employees across multiple sites and second, build Windows Update server to act as an internally managed proxy server. Before AWS each site used isolated license servers and on-premise infrastructure for shared licenses and have update servers. By utilizing AWS cloud infrastructure and existing accets customer together with Hardys Digital built a built solution for Microsoft Workloads on AWS which decreased TCO for infrastructure, dramatically simplified and standardized operations and generated further savings by sharing licenses among different branches.

Customer challenge

Customer has multiple data center offices. All employees within the offices used expensive shared licenses which were used through dedicated license servers and update servers in individually. Such architecture resulted in excess costs for multiple servers, licenses and operations for dispersed infrastructure. Additionally, the management of shared licenses was not centralized and couldn't be shared among sites for further saving from shared licenses.

Why AWS

Wide choice of AWS EC2 Instances and ready-made EC2 AMIs gives various possibilities to address specific Microsoft Workload needs. Security is priority for AWS and the AWS Well Architected Framework gives a strong guidance on how to deploys AWS services. Rich suite of AWS Directory Services and advanced networking services gives the possibilities to connect to existing domain controller a utilize existing access controls, users and groups configurations and maintain high level of security with AWS VPN or AWS Direct Connect connection between customer data center and AWS VPC.

Why Hardys Digital

Agility and Integration - As an experienced partner Hardys Digital can provide best practices with networking, security, and cloud services access within enterprise IT for a quick start. It provides AWS integration with ERP, IT management and project management systems.
Customer Experience - Hardys Digital offers pre-built integration of cloud services with monitoring, notification and alarms and their interaction with IT service management tools.
Complex approach and project management - Hardys Digital guides end-to-end through the cloud project professionally, clearly and with proven procedures.
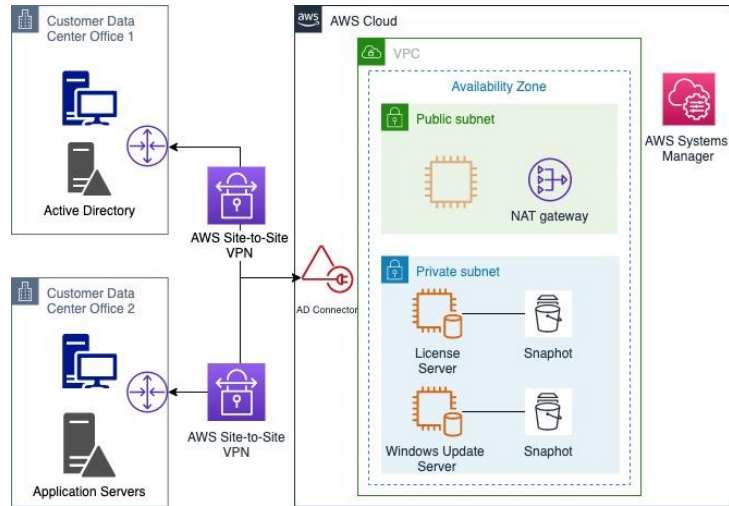
About Vítkovické Slévárny

The company Vítkovické slévárny is a traditional manufacturer of rolls for metal rolling, steel and cast-iron shaped castings, and since year 2004 also copper alloy castings.

It is a dynamically developing company with a tradition of castings manufacturing dating back to 1828 and rolls manufacturing dating back to 1910. At present, the company ranks among the top work rolls manufacturers for hot rolling mills on the European market, due to modern licensed technology of centrifugal casting.

Solution

The solution is based **on both Microsoft (**Windows Server, Active Directory, Hyper-V, Windows Update Service, System Center Configuration Manager) **and AWS (AWS EC2, AWS EBS, Lifecycle Manager**, **AWS Site-to-Site VPN**, **AWS Systems Manager and AWS CloudFormation** deployments scripts and multiple other AWS resources and services.

Core parts of the solution are **License Server** and **Windows updates servers built on AWS Windows Server AMIs** provisioned and managed through **AWS CloudFormation** for change management. Daily snapshot with **Lifecycle Manager** are in place. **AD Connector** connects local central Active Directory with EC2 Instance to join domains. **AWS Systems Manager** is used for deployment, configuration, management, and consumption of WSUS Windows Update Server and also automated patching view operational data from multiple AWS instances and automation of operational tasks across all AWS resource
AWS Site-to-Site VPN is deployed on each branch for secured access.
Service layer takes care of automatic monitoring, notifications, alarms and patching through **AWS CloudWatch, AWS CloudTrail and AWS Systems Manager** and its automation and integration by **AWS Lambda** with ITSM system.

Results and benefits

The customer has achieved lower TCO and got more stable, fault tolerant and simplified solution for Microsoft server-based license and windows update server. This architecture efficiently utilizes customer access management assets and optimizes infrastructure and license use for applications and servers. It is built and managed by Hardys Digital and AWS without the need for further capital investments from customer.