

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

FINNAIR

Taking off with application modernisation.

20 applications rearchitected and replatformed in **7 months**

 **Nordcloud**
an IBM Company



APPLICATION MODERNISATION



Finnair, Finland's flagship airline, was migrating to the cloud at the end of its data centre contract.

We started working with Finnair 7 months before its contract end date. **There were approximately 400 servers and 70 applications to get out of the data centre and into AWS in a way that would give Finnair a robust foundation for growth.**

As part of the migration strategy process, we analysed Finnair's application landscape and quantified the value of lift and shift versus modernisation for each one.

THE RESULT: APPROXIMATELY 20 APPLICATIONS NEEDED REARCHITECTING AND REPLATFORMING TO

- Deliver on the business case
- Eliminate technical debt
- Give Finnair access to the native AWS services needed to bolster its competitive position

Here's how we did it.





Rapid TCO assessment, vendor funding and migration roadmap development.

Read how we developed Finnair's migration business case and strategy in just 4 weeks.

[Get case study](#)



Complete cloud migration.

Read how we helped Finnair lift and shift approximately 400 VMs and 50 applications for an on-time data centre exit.

[Get case study](#)



Challenges.



TIGHT TIMELINE

Finnair had a looming data centre contract end date. We needed to meet this deadline, or the company would have to spend money to extend the arrangement.



CORONAVIRUS

During the strategy process, the Covid-19 pandemic struck Europe, leading to different working patterns among Finnair staff. The upside was that many applications weren't operating at normal capacity because of the drastic reduction in travel.



DIVERSE APPLICATION LANDSCAPE

There was a real mixed bag of applications and databases accumulated over more than 20 years. Some were mission-critical. Some needed replatforming. Others needed rearchitecting to perform more effectively in AWS.



LACK OF VISIBILITY

Across that broad applications landscape, there were varying levels of documentation. A key driver for Finnair was gaining more control, and we had to bridge that gap during the modernisation process.



We had some tricky middle-ware products that wouldn't run well in AWS, plus there was an app tail from old projects. Rearchitecting and replatforming have enabled us to increase our savings and – importantly – gain more control over our assets as we develop new capabilities.

TIINA FLYTSTRÖM

Head of Infrastructure & Cybersecurity

Finnair





Having managed services integrated into the project was key to our success. The different Nordcloud people worked really closely together and with the ecosystem of Finnair application partners.

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Head of Infrastructure & Cybersecurity

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The approach: Managed Application Modernisation.

Finnair used Managed Application Modernisation, a unique Nordcloud offering that helps customers eliminate legacy inefficiencies and technical debt in the cloud. **Managed Application Modernisation delivered an efficient process despite the coronavirus-related resourcing issues while giving Finnair additional benefits:**



ZERO UP-FRONT COSTS

Costs were spread out over 3 years, leveraging available AWS funding and incorporated into the monthly opex for managed services. This meant Finnair paid as they got the value – and gained more financial transparency.



ROCKET FUEL FOR CLOUD VALUE

Our managed services cloud engineers worked alongside our modernisation experts throughout the process. We managed the applications from day 1, so there was a seamless transition to operations. Finnair didn't have an in-house operations team, and this approach meant they didn't have to build one.

Thanks to Managed Application Modernisation, Finnair got results fast – and could start benefiting from more savings and native services.





A strategic approach to modernisation.

Modernisation isn't necessarily about extensive refactoring. It's about making strategic improvements that cut costs, expand functionality and improve security and stability. And that's what we did for Finnair.

We worked closely with teams at Finnair, AWS and the application owners to determine the best approach for each

application based on the capabilities Finnair needed. For some, we upgraded the operating system to improve security. For others, we modernised databases. And others we rearchitected so Finnair could access native services and optimise usage for AWS.

Here are the highlights.

SAP

Finnair had been using SAP with DB2 on AIX. We used this opportunity to drive a transformation to Hana DB – something customers had long been requesting. Thanks to the replatforming, Finnair achieved a double-digit percentage drop in costs. As Tiina Flytström, Finnair's Head of Infrastructure & Cybersecurity, said: "The whole SAP transformation process flowed and was wrapped up efficiently. We're getting real benefits out of it."



Finnair's experience really shows the benefit of considering modernisation wins alongside lift and shift when migrating to the cloud – because you can do it quickly and achieve real benefits around risk reduction, cost savings and functionality enhancement.

CORMAC WALSH, Cloud Advisor, Nordcloud



AIRFLIGHT MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS SYSTEM (AMOS)

This mission-critical application relied on legacy technology and was constrained in its ability to scale in line with Finnair's ambitions. We broke it down into 4 separate suites of software that migrated with a mixture of refactoring and lift and shift. It was the most challenging application on the project, but this approach has given Finnair greater agility for its expanding global footprint.

MQ

Finnair had approximately 200 integrations on AIX in production. We replatformed to either DB2 on Linux or Amazon RDS. We handled all the product licensing and generated significant savings for Finnair.

AIX APPLICATIONS

Finnair had business-critical applications and integrations on AIX, which we modernised with replatforming. Again, we handled all the licensing and helped reduce costs through licence optimisation.



We're now in a strong position to evolve our technology stack in line with our transformation plan. This upfront rearchitecting and replatforming have put us in a strong position, and now we're free of the data centre, it's even easier to modernise ongoing.

TOMI PIENIMAKI
CDO, Finnair





The business is saving a very significant amount of money on capacity, licences and managed services. We now have a very agile approach to using and delivering services, alongside KPIs to measure our applications.

TIINA FLYTSTRÖM

Head of Infrastructure & Cybersecurity

Finnair

Cloud enablement – with lower costs, lower risks and better functionality.

7 months and approximately 20 applications successfully rearchitected and replatformed. Along with the lift and shift of 400 VMs and another 50 or so applications, Finnair was able to switch off its data centre as planned.

Finnair is now on track to achieve the double-digit TCO reduction outlined in the business case we developed for them. A major factor in that drop is the capacity and licence savings achieved with the rearchitecting and replatforming. At the same time, they've reduced security and

technical risks by eliminating legacy vulnerabilities and improving stability. And they can make use of native AWS products and services that will help power strategic growth.

And this was only the start of the journey

The modernisation will continue as Finnair delivers on its digital transformation roadmap. It's an ambitious plan that now has a solid cloud foundation – and is set to drive post-pandemic recovery and long-term growth.



Modernise applications to the cloud – with zero up-front investment and a fast track to value.

Nordcloud is a European leader in cloud application modernisation, development, migration, managed services and training.

Clients say working with us is like having a compass for their cloud journey – you have cloud-native experts guiding best practice, pre-empting pit-falls, providing essential technical support and helping you achieve better, faster results.

Managed Application Modernisation

Managed Application Modernisation is an operationally and financially savvy way to benefit from cloud. There are zero up-front costs – instead, it's spread out over 3 years, incorporated into the monthly opex for managed services. And you get value faster, because our managed services cloud engineers work alongside our modernisation experts throughout the process. We help manage workloads and applications from day 1, so you quickly reap the cost and business benefits of cloud.



Faster results

We're cloud pioneers with a 100% cloud heritage. This means we're not just jumping on bandwagons or superimposing trends on to legacy ways of working. You get better, faster results because you have cloud natives guiding your journey.



Empowered teams

We're commercially focused, using proprietary tools and technologies that help you maximise the cost savings and value potential of the cloud. From technology to training, from design to DevOps, you get the support needed to capitalise on cloud benefits.



Global cloud leadership

We're a leading partner for all 3 public cloud platforms – Microsoft Azure, Google Cloud Platform and Amazon Web Services – and are featured in Gartner's Magic Quadrant. You get impartial advice that accounts for your entire tech stack – and is based on your best interests.

Contact us to discuss your cloud journey

Contact us

