GitLab

Cloud-based app-modernization: 5 success stories



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Introduction

Cloud infrastructure promises compelling benefits to development teams such as greater scalability, improved efficiency, and enhanced security.

But the journey to realize these advantages is rarely straightforward.

Many organizations find themselves managing two parallel environments—maintaining existing on-premise systems while simultaneously building out cloud services. This divided approach creates significant challenges: **developers face extended onboarding times, workflows become increasingly complex, and time-to-market slows to a crawl.** When the migration drags on from weeks to months, the benefits that motivated the cloud transition seem frustratingly out of reach.

What separates successful cloud migrations from the rest? We've gathered insights from organizations that have effectively navigated this transition by using GitLab's integrations to modernize their applications. Their experiences offer valuable lessons for accelerating your own cloud adoption journey and building a foundation that scales with your future needs.

IRON MOUNTAIN®

Iron Mountain reduces maintenance costs and increases production velocity

Iron Mountain, a leader in data center infrastructure, needed to modernize and streamline its systems. With fragmented open-source tooling, excessive administrative tasks, and challenges securing complex pipelines, the Iron Mountain team wanted a cloud services solution to better support its developers.

Iron Mountain selected **GitLab Ultimate on Google Cloud** to address these challenges. GitLab CI/CD allows teams to save time and boost efficiency with automation while also supporting better security assurance via up-front security scanning such as dynamic application security testing (DAST) and static application security testing (SAST). As developers build new Kubernetes environments, GitLab provides a single, cohesive environment, reducing complexity compared to a sprawling toolchain.

Iron Mountain now runs 240 automated cloud deployments on Google Cloud for Google Kubernetes Engine (GKE) workloads and has cut the number of on-premise VMs by nearly half. This saves the organization more than $60,000 per year in maintenance costs and more than $90,000 per year in labor.

$150K
in savings per year*

20 hours
saved in onboarding time per project*

> “To me, the vision that GitLab has in terms of tying strategy to scope and to code is very powerful. Also, I appreciate the level of investment they are continuing to make in the platform as they continue to work on it.”
>
> **Jason Monoharan,**
> Vice President of Technology,
> Iron Mountain

GitLab’s Google Cloud Integration

Without the native integration between GitLab and Google Cloud, teams would need to manually create new pipelines and deployments from scratch. Instead, teams save hours each week with GitLab’s pre-existing pipelines that developers can plug into.

Key features and benefits:

- **Streamlined CI/CD**: GitLab CI/CD can seamlessly interact with various Google Cloud services, automating the software delivery process. This includes building, testing, and deploying applications to GKE, Cloud Run, Compute Engine, and App Engine.
- **Simplified Deployment to GKE**: GitLab provides tools to easily provision new GKE clusters or import existing ones. You can leverage GitLab’s Auto DevOps feature for simplified deployment of container workloads to GKE with CI/CD.
- **Monitoring and Logging**: GitLab can integrate with Google Cloud’s monitoring and logging services to provide insights into your application’s performance and health.



>98%

decrease in build queue time*

3K hours

saved of developer time per quarter*

> “In terms of expenses alone, it’s huge. It’s very cost-effective. And the platform’s security features are efficient in that they cover everything I’m looking for. Now I have a single source of truth for governance, compliance, and security audits. I also have traceability from artifact to code commit.”
>
> **Nadav Robas**
> DevOps & DevSecOps Manager,
> Agoda

agoda

Agoda cuts startup time with GitLab Kubernetes

Digital travel platform, **Agoda**, faced significant constraints with their CI/CD pipeline. Operating across multiple environments—on-premises infrastructure alongside Amazon Web Services (AWS) and Google Cloud—the technical team struggled with a deployment pipeline that was becoming increasingly inefficient.

Jobs ran inside virtual machines (VMs) managed by Docker Machine, creating a lengthy startup process that caused delays before the teams could begin any actual work. Because VMs virtualize entire operating systems, they require significant resources and time to operate.

To accelerate the startup time, Agoda implemented GitLab’s Kubernetes executor. CI/CD jobs now run as containers within a Kubernetes cluster instead of full VMs. Unlike VMs, containers virtualize only the application layer and require fewer resources, making them much more efficient.

The GitLab Kubernetes executor allows Agoda’s team to quickly deploy new versions of their application and eliminate the slow startup times that hindered the team’s productivity. This architectural shift unlocks not only speed and time-savings but also improved reliability and scalability of Agoda’s CI/CD pipelines.



GitLab Kubernetes integration offers limitless scalability

GitLab Kubernetes Integration offers built-in support for container orchestration and cloud-native development.

With Kubernetes, teams can seamlessly scale their infrastructure according to usage, adjusting the number of containers running.

Benefits of using GitLab with Kubernetes:

- **Increased efficiency**: GitLab CI/CD can directly deploy applications to Kubernetes clusters (including with GitOps), reducing the time it takes to release new versions of applications
- **Monitoring and logging**: GitLab integrates with Kubernetes monitoring tools to provide insights into application performance and health. It also offers log aggregation to help troubleshoot issues.
- **Security**: Administrators are able to grant Kubernetes access to members of a specific project or group using role-based access control (RBAC) so that only authorized users can access and modify Kubernetes resources. Additional infrastructure as code (IaC) scanning can secure your Terraform and Kubernetes manifests.

Airwallex

Airwallex partners with Google Cloud and GitLab to build scalable CI/CD pipelines

Airwallex, a global financial platform, was looking to grow its user base and become a more competitive player in the fintech market. Airwallex turned to Google Cloud to deliver high-availability services that Airwallex needs to support a 24-hour business.

By using Google Cloud and the GitLab DevSecOps Platform, the fintech company has the tools it needs to create and run a reliable and secure IT infrastructure and a well-established international network.

With the GitLab CI/CD pipeline running on and integrating with Google Cloud, Airwallex has seamless support for various services, like international money transfers. Plus, running GitLab on the Google Kubernetes Engine (GKE) provides the fintech company with additional scalability and reliability.

8x
faster deployments*

4x
faster feature delivery*

"Thanks to Airwallex's partnership with these two platforms [GitLab and Google Cloud], we have been able to develop a payment infrastructure that is scalable, enhances our performance, and provides a seamless user experience. And the collaboration is ongoing and continues to prioritize innovative solutions, security, and user satisfaction. The partnership meets our business needs."

Andy Chow
Technology Chief of Staff,
Airwallex

Standardize CI/CD pipelines across cloud providers

GitLab allows companies to create a single, standardized **CI/CD pipeline** that can be deployed and moved seamlessly across different cloud providers or on-premises infrastructure. This simplifies the process of migrating applications or changing cloud strategies, as the CI/CD pipeline doesn't need to be rebuilt or significantly modified for each environment.

Benefits of this approach:

- **Increased flexibility**: Companies can easily switch cloud providers or adopt a multi-cloud strategy without re-engineering their CI/CD pipelines.
- **Reduced complexity**: Managing a single, standardized pipeline is simpler than maintaining separate pipelines for each environment.
- **Faster time to market**: Streamlined CI/CD processes enable faster and more frequent software releases.
- **Cost savings**: Reusing pipelines across environments reduces development and maintenance costs.



20%

boost in deployments YoY*

“Going down this path, it’s helpful that GitLab has tools to make the move to the cloud easier.”

Mark Portofe
Director of Platform Engineering,
CARFAX



CARFAX avoids complex cloud migration processes

CARFAX, an automotive data provider, used both AWS and on-premise infrastructure. This mixed environment added to CARFAX’s complex toolchain with some teams and assets on the cloud and others using the on-premise infrastructure.

By leveraging GitLab, CARFAX standardized its CI/CD pipelines before moving to the cloud, simplifying the cloud migration process. CARFAX has now migrated most of its infrastructure, servers, and codebase to the cloud, streamlining its toolchain and speeding up the development process.

The GitLab platform also allows CARFAX to be cloud agnostic, giving the CARFAX team the opportunity to deploy and manage software beyond AWS and leverage other cloud infrastructures as they see fit.



Advantages of cloud agnostic platforms

Cloud-agnostic platforms and multi-cloud deployment options (AWS, Google Cloud, Azure) give companies additional flexibility to set up their infrastructure as they see fit.

Benefits of using GitLab with Kubernetes:

- **Portability**: With cloud-agnostic platforms, companies can leverage multiple cloud platforms, selecting the best platform for each service.
- **Data resilience**: Teams can switch to a different cloud provider in the case of a disaster or outage and prevent downtime.
- **Cost optimization**: By leveraging different cloud providers, teams can choose the most cost-effective solution for each use case.

Dunelm accelerates deployments to the cloud

Dunelm, the United Kingdom's top homewares retailer, wanted to accelerate its cloud migration to AWS by streamlining its infrastructure and deployment processes.

The Dunelm team turned to GitLab Ultimate to build and deploy secure CI/CD pipelines directly onto AWS and remove the manual, in-house pipeline management that slowed down their previous migration efforts.

GitLab's ability to manage infrastructure as code, integrate with tools like Terraform, and provide visibility into pipeline deployments empowered the Dunelm team to effectively automate infrastructure provisioning and management on AWS. Using GitLab's DevSecOps platform, the Dunelm team reduced onboarding time for new developers and dramatically increased the number of deployments they accomplish each week.

75-85
deployments per week (previously 10-20)*

Hours
for onboarding instead of days*

"Previously, we built the libraries and functionality in-house for our CI/CD pipelines. If we wanted to do anything new, we had to write this ourselves. GitLab can do everything we want it to do, from security, performance, testing, and more. We can build our pipelines in a readable, modular, and consistent fashion."

Chintan Parmar
Principal Platform Engineer,
Dunelm

Build secure software faster with GitLab and the cloud

Whether you're managing cloud infrastructure, integrations with third-party tools, complex CI/CD pipelines, or all of the above, GitLab enables teams to modernize their applications at speed and scale..

- **Simplify your toolchain**: A single, cloud-agnostic platform to manage all aspects of the SDLC allows organizations to reduce toolchain sprawl, enhance security, and save both time and money managing multiple tools.
- **Improve security**: Scanners like SAST, Dependency Scanning, and DAST move security earlier in the development process. When used with built-in security guardrails, you can prevent vulnerabilities from entering production.
- **Accelerate delivery**: Seamless integrations with cloud service providers and pre-built pipelines allow teams to save hours of manual work each week.





How GitLab helps teams drive digital transformation

GitLab's robust CI/CD capabilities, combined with seamless integration with cloud providers like Google Cloud, AWS, and Azure, simplify the deployment of containerized applications. This allows organizations to embrace cloud-native architectures, automate processes, and achieve faster time-to-market, ultimately driving innovation and enhancing their competitive edge.

Learn more about building cloud native applications with GitLab.

Talk to an expert to find the best cloud and DevSecOps solution for your organization.

GitLab

*The customer success data points referenced in this guide are a result of the customer's cloud integration experience in addition to the other benefits of using GitLab, such as a unified DevSecOps platform, embedded security scanning, and built-in automations.