



Skytap Virtual IT Labs Case Study:

CLICO transforms virtual training for its customers with Skytap's cloud-based virtual labs solution

Background

Having outgrown its on-prem data center, facing issues delivering virtual labs, and adapting to a globally distributed workforce, CLICO needed a cloud-based solution to deliver training and reduce the costs attached to physical hardware maintenance.

Challenge

Prior to working with Skytap, CLICO relied on a home-grown virtual labs solution hosted in its data center in Warsaw, Poland. However, it faced a number of challenges due to the rapidly growing size of its business and the ongoing maintenance costs of the physical hardware in its data center. Nearly half of the company's workforce was working remotely or from different countries and CLICO did not have the resources to keep up with the data center issues. The global pandemic further accelerated CLICO's interest in moving out of its data center and into the cloud to reduce costs and offer better availability for its customers.

Overview

INDUSTRY:

Computer Security

OBJECTIVE:

Support high-quality, scalable training

USE CASE:

Virtual Training

About the Company

CLICO is a valued added distributor focusing on computer security, networks, and management solutions and support in Poland and throughout Europe. Founded in 1991, CLICO offers partners and clients a comprehensive set of consulting, educational and audit services, as well as support for CLICO engineers in the development and implementation of projects.



Solution

CLICO selected Skytap due to the following product features and capabilities:

- Ability to quickly provision environments and build and re-use templates
- Global availability and geographical locations of data centers
- On-demand delivery and low latency
- Ease of use for instructors and learners

Skytap enabled CLICO to save money by eliminating its physical data center in Warsaw. The company now utilizes Skytap data centers in Europe and globally to deliver fast connection speeds no matter where its instructors and students are located. By using Skytap's cloud-based virtual machines, both CLICO's trainers and learners can access labs from anywhere that has an internet connection without issues.

Skytap's Course Manager solution, an add-on of the Skytap Virtual IT Labs offering, has made configuring courses faster through templates. Trainers can now deploy a workshop or course for multiple learners at the same time and can now provision labs in less than 50% of the time it took previously. "Course Manager is a very nice solution which really helps our trainers, and automates work, decreasing time spent on unnecessary functions," says Piotr Misiowiec, Education Services Director at CLICO.



"We've never had problems with any outage, or malfunctioning of environments. It's proven that working in the cloud is more regular, smoother, easier to manage and we have very big cost savings for our operations."

– Piotr Misiowiec, Education Services Director, CLICO

Outcomes

Since the company began utilizing Skytap Virtual IT Labs in 2018, CLICO has leveraged the solution to scale its virtual labs and classrooms across the globe, eliminate its physical data center and adopt a cloud-first strategy. What used to take nearly an hour to complete now only consumes 20 to 30 minutes with the use of Skytap's Course Manager.

In addition to these benefits, with Skytap CLICO is able to:

- Utilize Skytap's global availability without paying for and maintaining costly hardware and related maintenance costs
- Reduce the time to provision courses from an hour to 20 minutes
- Support hundreds of virtual labs, courses, and workshops per year
- Support learners across the globe with high speed of delivery and no latency issues

CLICO continues to expand and offer more virtual training labs to ensure its customers are well-trained on its products and solutions. In addition to fast connection speeds and the use of Skytap data centers, the company has also enjoyed other benefits of being cloud-based such as business continuity and disaster recovery capabilities.



Learn more about how Skytap can help your organization provide virtual IT labs to support virtual training, demos and POCs

Skytap is a cloud service purpose-built to natively run traditional systems in the cloud. Our customers use Skytap for running production, disaster recovery, virtual training labs, and development workloads. We are the only cloud service to support AIX, IBM i, and Linux on IBM Power together with x86 workloads, enabling businesses to accelerate their journey to the cloud and increase innovation. To learn more about Skytap or schedule a demo, visit www.skytap.com.