



Case Study - Gate Group

Gate Group drives growth with a seamless cloud migration to Skytap on Azure

Snapshot

Industry: Hospitality

Business: Airline Catering

Focus: Cloud Migration

Challenges:

- Migrate core applications before contract expiry
- Ensure zero disruption for users during cutover
- Deliver high performance and availability in the cloud

Overview

When Gate Group acquired the catering operations of a large airline, it inherited a sophisticated IT environment and a hosting contract on the verge of expiry. Working with Meridian, the company built a new cloud environment using Skytap on Azure within a tight deadline—ensuring a seamless transition and reducing business risk.



Business Challenge

When world-leading airline catering company Gate Group bought the catering arm of a leading European airline, it inherited much more than kitchens and restaurants—it also acquired over 200 applications running on IBM Power servers, hosted at an IBM data centre in Germany.

Suresh Kumarasan, Manager, IT, Cloud Infrastructure Service at Gate Group outlines the situation: **“As well as inheriting a complex IT environment, we also took over the contract with the hosting provider, which was due to expire. That gave us a tight deadline for migrating the company’s IBM i applications into a new environment, but we lacked the specialist skills in-house to carry out the migration ourselves.”**

Solution

Building on its cloud-first strategy, Gate Group decided to move the recently acquired applications to a Microsoft Azure cloud environment and enlisted the help of Meridian and Skytap to ensure a smooth transition.

Suresh Kumarasan says: **“We selected Skytap because it was able to offer a seamless integration of the IBM i applications into our existing Azure environment. Skytap also gave us access to newer-generation hardware, which would help to**

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Suresh Kumarasan, Manager, IT,
Cloud Infrastructure Service at Gate Group

improve performance and simplify infrastructure management. We run a lean IT team at Gourmet Group, so this was the perfect solution for our needs.”

Due to the data protection policies built into the existing cloud agreement, Gate Group was unable to access the acquired applications directly. As a result, the only option was to build a new environment in the Microsoft Azure cloud based on tape backups of the legacy applications, and then synchronise the data during a brief cutover window.

“We were really pleased with the support Meridian provided during this project,” explains Suresh Kumarasan. **“Meridian built a proof-of-concept environment based on the tape backups and thoroughly tested it to ensure full functionality and best-practice. The strong relationship with IBM and Meridian helped to build a rapport between all the parties involved in the project, which really helped us get the job done.”**



Customer Benefits

With support and guidance from Meridian, Gate Group successfully migrated its recently acquired IT applications into the Microsoft Azure cloud, completing the final data synchronisation step within just one hour—and avoiding any disruption for end users.

Suresh Kumarasan says: **“Since Meridian helped us to move our applications to Skytap on Azure, all of the systems have been running seamlessly. As a result, we now enjoy easier system management, improved application response times as well as faster backups.”**

He concludes: **“During this project we developed a strong partnership with Meridian, and we were pleased that they went the extra mile to help us solve out-of-scope challenges, such as software license and hardware configuration issues. With our core applications running smoothly in Skytap on Azure, we can focus on the next steps in delivering our cloud-first strategy.”**

About Meridian IT Limited

Meridian is a proven leader in the UK’s enterprise technology sector, with over 40 years’ experience of helping clients build powerful, reliable IT solutions that create real value. Today, Meridian is one of very few technology partners with the skills to provide true end-to-end solutions across a full spectrum of domains, including Infrastructure, Cloud, Security, Software and Artificial Intelligence. Meridian delivers projects in the UK and worldwide as a member of Meridian Group International, a network of skilled resources that combines global reach with local expertise.



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