



Migrating to the Cloud: Frandzel Robins Bloom & Csato and Amazon Web Services

Background

The attorneys at Frandzel Robins Bloom & Csato (FRBC) have spent more than 35 years serving clients that include financial institutions, multinational corporations, local businesses and entrepreneurs. The firm's 36 attorneys practice in the areas of financial services, creditor rights, commercial litigation, bankruptcy, business reorganizations, real estate and employment law. Their focus on the specific needs of businesses makes them unique within mid-sized firms in California.

For more than ten years, the firm has partnered with Innovative Computing Systems, Inc. to provide technology advisory guidance, deployment, integration, support and training. When the firm members recognized that they needed to invest in new and more server space to replace old servers and to accommodate for growing stores of data, FRBC turned to the experts at Innovative Computing Systems for help.

The team at Innovative Computing Systems had researched and developed a best-of-breed cloud services offering. They evaluated numerous Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) providers and chose Amazon Web Services (AWS) as a partner based on the vendor's commitment, good standing in the industry, and focus on security.

At the same time, the firm administrator and attorneys at FRBC had been researching the pros and cons of moving data to the cloud for storage. "Because our data contains sensitive information about clients, our primary concern for cloud storage was security — specifically, knowing where the data was being stored and who would have access to it," said Debra Gray, Executive Director of the firm. "Our attorneys are very tech savvy and have a good understanding of how cloud storage works, and are comfortable with cloud storage in other aspects of their lives, like storing and sharing photos," she continued. Having their firm's cloud storage provided by a reputable provider like Amazon gave the firm the level of comfort and security needed to move forward with a plan.

Client

Frandzel Robins Bloom & Csato, L.C.
www.frandzel.com

Business Challenge

This well-respected mid-sized California law firm was ready to replace existing servers and invest in new ones. Because much of the data they store relates to their clients, they needed a highly secure solution that was also easy to access and caused little to no disruption in client service. They also wanted a solution that was easy to expand, took advantage of current technologies and would save money in the long run.

Solution

The law firm, which had been relying on the professionals at Innovative Computing Systems for technology guidance and support, turned to them again for advice. The team at Innovative Computing Systems developed a hybrid solution to accommodate more and newer server space using a combination of Amazon Web Services and physical servers.

Results

Moving to a reliable, secure hybrid platform provides the firm today with numerous benefits, including the elimination of repeating capital expenses, easier mobile access to information, and faster disaster recovery. It also simplifies the end-user experience, and allows members of the firm to continue to provide the best service possible to their clients.

The Solution

The management and attorneys at FRBC partnered with Innovative Computing Systems to develop a hybrid solution that connected the firm to AWS. A Virtual Private Cloud connection was established between the firm and AWS, and physical and virtual servers were migrated to the cloud platform. Innovative Computing Systems deployed a hybrid solution: a majority of the firm's data was moved to AWS, while the rest of the firm's data resides within a consolidated local data room. The firm's attorneys and staff access the hybrid platform utilizing remote access technology.

The firm's cloud solution is highly available and secure. Numerous redundancies within the firm's firewall and Internet access solutions combined with the AWS platform design provide unprecedented levels of reliability and performance. The solution is accessible regardless of the device: workstations, tablets, and thin clients are all universally utilized and supported.

Benefits

Moving to a reliable, secure cloud platform provided numerous advantages to FRBC.

Capital Expenses. With this hybrid solution, the firm eliminated large repeating capital expenditures. With equipment purchases or lease investments, FRBC was purchasing more hardware and software than they needed to accommodate growth and application adoption. A new operational expense model enables the firm to pay for what they use in a predictable, recurring monthly fee that includes: server instances, storage, backup snapshots, and associated services and support. Eventually, the firm will be able to eliminate its server room, which has associated investments, such as air conditioning units, racks, and IT personnel to support it.

Mobile Access. The firm's standardized desktop is available from numerous devices, including mobile tablets, thin clients and traditional Windows and Apple OS X computers. Because users can connect to the firm from anywhere via any device, the firm can better meet the needs of their client base.

Disaster Recovery. Top-tier cloud solutions, like AWS, have mastered disaster recovery scenarios. In the event of a failure at a primary facility, server instances and associated data are snapshotted in an automated fashion to a distant regional location. A simple process enables IT providers and staff to initiate server instances and associated snapshot volumes, thereby making the disaster recovery configuration seamlessly available to law firm personnel.

Other Benefits. Moving to a hybrid solution eliminated repetitive application image refreshing, streamlined remote help desk support, and simplified the end-user experience for FRBC.

About Frandzel Robins Bloom & Csato

For more than 35 years, Frandzel Robins Bloom & Csato, L.C. has dedicated itself to serving clients and building an enduring institution. Today, the firm has 36 lawyers in two California offices working together to pursue these objectives. The firm provides legal services to financial institutions and businesses from multinational corporations to local entrepreneurs. The attorneys make it a point to understand the needs of clients and, coupled with their skill and experience, provide exceptional representation that is critical to clients. Their clients rely on the firm to work aggressively and efficiently to successfully resolve their legal matters.

About Innovative Computing Systems, Inc.

Innovative Computing Systems, Inc. has focused exclusively on the technology needs of law firms since 1989. The company services firms across North America and takes a best-of-breed approach to all of its offerings. Innovative Computing Systems selects only premier technology partners to provide solutions to its clients and is committed to maintaining long-term strategic relationships with clients to ensure the highest levels of success with IT initiatives. Learn more by visiting www.innovativecomp.com.