

B2 Impact modernizes IT with unified Red Hat platform



Headquarters

Wroclaw, Poland

Industry

Financial services

Size

350 employees

"With Red Hat OpenShift, our IT environment is no longer a hindrance to our services, but an asset that provides continuous improvement. We can now focus on delivering great applications and IT services, rather than spending resources on maintaining hardware."

Bartlomiej Godzieszka

CIO, B2 Impact Poland

Debt collection agency, B2 Impact Poland needed to modernize its IT to increase agility and scalability in line with business demands. The company embarked on a major transformation program, which included adopting Red Hat OpenShift and the included feature, Red Hat OpenShift Virtualization. With the unified Red Hat platform, B2 Impact can manage its applications pre and post modernization using the same tools and processes. The new IT environment has also allowed B2 Impact to increase efficiency with fewer servers to manage and improve application quality.



Software and services

Red Hat® OpenShift®

Partner

Netology

Benefits

- Increased IT efficiency
- Progressed application performance
- Developed resilience and security

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About Red Hat Innovators in the Open

Innovation is the core of open source. Red Hat customers use open source technologies to change not only their own organizations, but also entire industries and markets. Red Hat Innovators in the Open proudly showcases how our customers use enterprise open source solutions to solve their toughest business challenges. Want to share your story? Learn more.



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Transforming IT to better support the business

B2 Impact Poland is one of Poland's leading debt collection agencies. With nearly 350 employees, the company services the debt of nearly 3 million customers, handling 4.8 million cases. To meet increasingly complex business demands, the IT department needed to deliver new systems and services rapidly. However, the company's established infrastructure struggled to keep up, facing growing challenges in capacity and availability that hindered business agility.

To overcome these obstacles, B2 Impact launched a significant IT transformation project aimed at adopting a hybrid cloud model. "Our goal is to provide greater scalability and flexibility, so we can support business growth, foster innovation, and advance IT efficiency," said Bartlomiej Godzieszka, CIO, B2 Impact. "We also wanted to reinforce our security and reduce our carbon footprint by consolidating our hardware."

The company began its journey with a community-based open source platform for application modernization. However, to mature its capabilities and accelerate progress, B2 Impact sought an enterprise-grade solution offering robust support. Ensuring business continuity during and after the transformation was a top priority, particularly given the importance of the company's collections management system.

Unifying management of applications pre- and post-modernization

To support its IT transformation program, B2 Impact adopted Red Hat OpenShift, which provides a comprehensive suite of tools and services to streamline the entire application lifecycle—from development to delivery and workload management. Red Hat OpenShift Virtualization, an included feature, provides IT administrators to manage and deploy both virtual machines (VMs) and containerized workloads using a unified set of tools, an important capability for B2 Impact as it makes the transition from traditional to cloud-native architectures.

"We selected Red Hat to support our virtualization and containerization efforts because they optimize our IT spending, and we realized the advantages of using a single platform to support all our applications—before, during, and after modernization," said Godzieszka. "The platform's robustness and strong reputation also gave us the confidence that we could ensure business continuity during the transition."

After conducting a proof of concept exercise, B2 Impact deployed Red Hat OpenShift in collaboration with experts at Netology. "We were fully operational in the new environment within 6 months," said Godzieszka. "The transformation has significantly streamlined our IT infrastructure, consolidating 400 VMs to just 150 and reducing physical servers from 46 to 18."

Supporting a DevOps approach

B2 Impact's dedicated team of 17 developers, testers, and analysts now modernizes, manages, and deploys the company's applications in the Red Hat OpenShift environment. This includes its Db2 databases and core collections management system. Netology continues to support the company by delivering Red Hat OpenShift updates, extensions, and new clusters.



The platform supports B2 Impact's DevOps approach, providing tools like Argo CD to facilitate continuous integration (CI) and continuous delivery (CD) to streamline the software development cycle. Additionally, the company utilizes Apache Kafka and Debezium within the Red Hat platform to create real-time data streaming pipelines and capture database changes as they happen.

Increasing efficiency, application quality, security, and resilience

Increased IT efficiency

With Red Hat OpenShift, B2 Impact has built a modern, efficient, and scalable IT environment while reducing technical debt. By managing all VMs and containerized applications through a single platform, the company has significantly improved operational efficiency. Additionally, with fewer physical and virtual servers, B2 Impact has lowered its power consumption and maintenance needs.

"With Red Hat OpenShift, our IT environment is no longer a hindrance to our services, but an asset that provides continuous improvement," said Godzieszka. "We can now focus on delivering great applications and IT services, rather than spending resources on maintaining hardware."

Progressed application performance

The adoption of a DevOps approach supported by Red Hat OpenShift provides developers with the tools they need to work more efficiently and deliver high-quality applications.

"Our modernized applications will offer users better experiences," said Godzieszka. "Thanks to a microservices architecture, maintaining and updating these applications has become much simpler. We're now delivering incremental updates every 2 weeks, allowing us to bring innovations to market faster."

Developed resilience and security

As a financial institution, security and resilience are crucial for B2 Impact. Built-in best-practice security processes within Red Hat OpenShift ensure robust application protection without burdening developers.

The Red Hat environment also strengthens resilience by simplifying disaster-recovery capabilities, with the ability to seamlessly switch applications between servers and datacenters. "We can now easily demonstrate our digital resilience and security measures to comply with regulations such as the Digital Operational Resilience Act (DORA) and the NIST Cybersecurity Framework 2.0," said Godzieszka.

Continuing the transformation journey

B2 Impact has already gained significant benefits from its IT transformation, including improved business agility, scalability, and innovation—but the journey is ongoing.

As part of the project, the company has adopted Infrastructure as Code (IaC) practices using Ansible AWX and plans to implement the Red Hat Ansible® Automation Platform next year. Ansible Automation Platform combines security, features, and integrations to scale automation efficiently. Tasks like backups and network or storage configurations are now performed through IaC, allowing the company to create new environments in just 1 hour.

About Netology

Netology has been offering tailor-made IT solutions for businesses since 2004.
The company's strength lies in the capabilities of its team of certified experts, who work with leading companies in the financial, industrial, retail, and public sectors.

B2 Impact also plans to continue to leverage Red Hat Training to optimize developer productivity and experience. Red Hat Training has helped it achieve IT modernization, and the company plans to continue to leverage the platform to support future development efforts in transformation journey.

About B2 Impact

B2 Impact Poland – formerly Ultimo SA – has been an expert in debt management since 2002. The company is part of the European financial group, B2 Impact, listed on Oslo Bors and with operations in 20 countries. The company focuses on providing amicable solutions for clients seeking ways out of debt problems by serving them through digital solutions such as chat facilities and 24x7 self-service platforms, providing relevant solutions to business partners and building a healthy financial market.



About Red Hat

Red Hat is the world's leading provider of enterprise open source software solutions, using a community-powered approach to deliver reliable and high-performing Linux, hybrid cloud, container, and Kubernetes technologies. Red Hat helps customers develop cloud-native applications, integrate existing and new IT applications, and automate and manage complex environments. A trusted adviser to the Fortune 500, Red Hat provides award-winning support, training, and consulting services that bring the benefits of open innovation to any industry. Red Hat is a connective hub in a global network of enterprises, partners, and communities, helping organizations grow, transform, and prepare for the digital future.

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