NTT DATA

LEADING AUTOMOTIVE OEM DRIVES FORWARD DIGITIZATION BY MIGRATING TO SAP CLOUD FOUNDRY

CASE STUDY

SAP
Global Partner

SAP LEAP
Large Enterprise Acceleration Program

THE CLIENT

The client is a leading car manufacturer that produces high-performance cars under a range of brands. The client operates several production centres around Europe and, as part of its strategy of innovation, established a software development centre in 2019 that is devoted to developing new solutions. An employer of over 15,000 people, the client is dedicated to improving its product line and customer experience through digitalised processes.

As the automobile industry undergoes a period of profound change provoked by sustainability, the client is focused on the future. It's taking a two-pronged approach: digitalising its processes to improve efficiency, and reinforcing new business models around areas of urban mobility, connectivity and sustainability.

THE CHALLENGE

Currently, the business extension applications created by the customer are deployed in a SAP BTP Neo environment. This is one of the development environments offered by SAP Cloud Platform, the second being Cloud Foundry. While Neo contains an SAP proprietary runtime, Cloud Foundry is a multi-cloud environment that broadens options for developers when it comes to developing apps and selecting service providers.

Cloud Foundry is presented by SAP as the innovation platform of the future, and will be SAP's main focus for development moving forward. This means that, while a number of transition options remain in place, Neo is on its way out. Sooner or later, all companies will need to migrate to Cloud Foundry.

In light of NTT DATA's strong relationship with both SAP and the client, NTT DATA was fully aware of the need to complete this migration.

Based on the client's BTP application roadmap, NTT DATA believed it was important to recommend activating Cloud Foundry in order to take advantage of the new BTP services and features. Although the client had already invested in the Neo environment, NTT DATA approached the client to explain the importance of moving to Cloud Foundry and recommend taking steps to stay ahead of the change.

NTT DATA is overperforming on accompanying customers on their continuous SAP-based digital transformations.
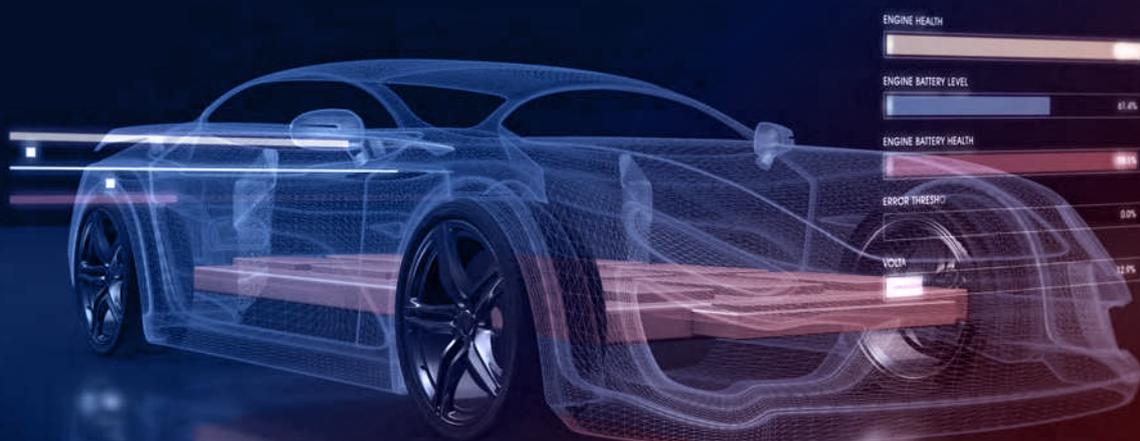
THE SOLUTION

In order for the client to continue moving forward with its innovation and digitalisation strategy, NTT DATA understood that migration to Cloud Foundry would be essential. Migration would not only provide the client with access to a wealth of extended functionalities, but it would also create new possibilities for services and programming models, and further democratise app creation.

NTT DATA began by developing a roadmap for migration, going through preparation, decision and implementation phases. Following SAP best practices for migration, NTT DATA worked to evaluate different scenarios to ensure that the migration would be carried out in the most efficient way possible.

Next, NTT DATA looked at the dependency chain of applications, before ranking their priority and business criticality. This assessment involved working closely with the client to ensure NTT DATA used accurate information that best reflected the client's business needs. From these insights, NTT DATA created a process checklist to track the platform assessment status, scenario analysis, business components affected and the business critical assessment.

NTT DATA is recognized by the market as a reliable digital transformation partner.

NTT DATA then compared scenarios and ordered tasks according to their complexity and business criticality. This would facilitate the creation of the migration framework, allowing NTT DATA to start the migration with the least complex scenario for the continuation of the client's business, before moving on to more complex and vital scenarios.

A specialised workshop was held at this point to build a platform roadmap with SAP experts. Following the workshop, NTT DATA began to move components to the new BTP environment. What's more, the SAP experts involved in the workshop took steps to check all functionalities deployed in the customer platform. These insights would allow them to consider all relevant technical factors before suggesting the best alternative to carrying out the migration.

THE RESULT

While migrating the SAP Portal, workflows and document repository was straightforward, moving the HANA database proved challenging and required a manual migration, which would have been both costly and time consuming.

At this stage, NTT DATA recommended postponing the completion of the migration. Following consultations with the client and SAP experts, it was clear to NTT DATA that it would be best to wait until the SAP Standard XS Migration Assistant tool is released later in 2021. This tool will enable an automatic migration of the database, making the process more efficient and reducing the risk of manual errors.

Although the migration is not yet complete, NTT DATA has provided the client with running and working components in the Cloud Foundry environment. Developing new mobility solutions, and improving its customer experience.

WHY NTT DATA

As long-standing collaborators of the client, NTT DATA was best placed to support the client in this migration project, thanks to a unique understanding of their business needs, processes and future strategy. What's more, NTT DATA's deep expertise and experience working with SAP allowed for cutting-edge solutions that are best suited to the client's individual needs and requirements.

WHAT'S NEXT

In order to finalise the HANA migration, NTT DATA awaits the release of SAP's recommended migration tool to automate the process.