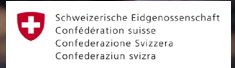# Guiding the journey to cloud-native modernization

Creation of a 'cookbook' for Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG) on the topic of cloudification of existing applications

The cookbook from T-Systems has given the customer a clear, actionable framework to modernize the applications while staying aligned with the mission. It's a crucial step in ensuring Swiss agriculture benefits from cutting-edge technology.

In today's rapidly evolving digital landscape, the agricultural sector faces increasing demands to leverage modern technology for improved efficiency, sustainability, and data-driven decision-making. For Switzerland's Federal Office for Agriculture (FOAG), embracing cloud technology was an important step towards meeting these challenges. As a specialized agency for the agricultural sector, the FOAG is divided into six directorates: Political Control and Resources, Production and Ecosystems, International Affairs, Markets and Value Creation, and Direct Payments and Rural Development. The FOAG also oversees three federal agricultural research institutes (Agroscope) and the national stud farm in Avenches.

Tasked with critical initiatives such as monitoring soil carbon levels and supporting rural development, the FOAG recognized that modernizing its application landscape could unlock new opportunities for innovation and resilience in agriculture. By transitioning to a cloud-native environment, the FOAG aims to enhance its operational capabilities, allowing for smarter resource management and a quicker response to the needs of Swiss farmers and agricultural researchers.

The FOAG turned to T-Systems' Cloud Professional Services for expert guidance in navigating this daunting task. A major obstacle was their application landscape, which depended on outdated, non-cloud-native technologies. To address this issue, T-Systems provided a 'cloud cookbook' that reshaped FOAG's approach to cloud adoption. With a clear and actionable roadmap in hand, the FOAG could confidently and effectively pursue application modernization. This collaboration highlighted the value of strategic cloud consulting in addressing complex governmental challenges, paving the way for the FOAG to achieve innovation and resilience.

At a glance

- The need to modernize its custom applications, which were based on outdated, non-cloud-native technologies
- Due to regulatory constraints as a Swiss government entity, the FOAG was unable to perform direct scans of its infrastructure, relying instead on discussions and questionnaires for insights into its application landscape
- T-Systems provided a 'cloud cookbook', a comprehensive guide with best practices, examples, and recommendations for a cloud-native application modernization strategy
- Designed for the future mode of operation (FMO) instead of replicating the existing setup through lift-and-shift migrations
- A clear, actionable framework for transitioning to the public cloud, ensuring scalability, efficiency, and alignment with their long-term goals

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Reference in detail

🎯 Customer pain points

The FOAG in Switzerland faced several challenges as it prepared to modernize its technology landscape. Over the years, its custom applications had grown complex, relying on older, non-cloud-native technologies, making it unclear how they could be transitioned to the cloud. The lack of visibility into their application ecosystem, combined with the absence of a preferred cloud provider, added significant complexity to their plans.

Furthermore, as a government entity, FOAG's operations were bound by strict regulations, which prohibited direct scanning of their current infrastructure. This limited their ability to assess their current mode of operation (CMO) and created additional hurdles in crafting a clear migration strategy. Without a structured approach, the office risked delays, inefficiencies, and potential disruptions to critical functions, such as soil carbon monitoring and agricultural research oversight.

💡 How T-Systems solved it

T-Systems approached FOAG's challenges with a holistic, cloud-agnostic assessment and consulting approach. Given the constraints, T-Systems conducted in-depth discussions with application owners and utilized comprehensive questionnaires to gather the necessary insights about the existing applications. Instead of focusing on the current application environment, an emphasis was placed on the FMO, aligning with the vision of modernization.

The solution was a comprehensive 'cloud cookbook', meticulously crafted to address FOAG's specific needs. This guide was more than just a technical manual; it was a strategic blueprint. It provided detailed best practices, guidelines, and illustrative examples. It prioritized a cloud-native approach, ensuring the modernization efforts would leverage the full benefits of cloud technology, rather than merely replicating the current setup through lift-and-shift migrations.

☆ Business impact

The cookbook delivered by T-Systems transformed the customer's cloud adoption journey. With a clear, actionable roadmap, the FOAG could now approach application modernization with confidence and clarity. The guide empowered them to make informed decisions while maintaining flexibility in selecting a cloud provider. By focusing on cloud-native solutions, the cookbook ensured that applications would transition smoothly and remain scalable, efficient, and future-ready.

This strategic alignment positioned the federal office to better support Switzerland's agricultural sector with robust, modernized technology. With this tailored guidance, the customer is now well-equipped to navigate the complexities of cloud adoption and unlock new operational efficiencies.

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