

Ávoris Streamlines SAP Migration with Linke and AWS



About Ávoris

Ávoris, formerly Barceló Viajes and part of the Barceló Group, is a leading tourism business in Spain. The company offers a broad range of travel and tourism services, including holiday bookings and air travel. Ávoris operates 685 travel agencies across Spain, serves 2.2 million travelers a year, and has nearly 3,000 employees.

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Gabriel Ramis
IT Operations Manager
Ávoris

The Challenge

Ávoris's on-premises SAP environment could no longer support its business needs: “Overnight reporting processes began running into the next working day, so staff couldn't start working on their SAP-related tasks when they came into work and had to wait up to two hours for the process to end,” says Gabriel Ramis, IT Operations Manager at Ávoris.

Because SAP is such a business-critical solution—it controls all billing and invoicing at Ávoris—the delays needed to be solved to keep up with day-to-day operations. “The main problem was that our SAP environment had outgrown the on-premises infrastructure,” says Ramis. “We'd gone from a business of 300 employees to almost 3,000 in the time the SAP platform had been in place. We knew the infrastructure needed updating, which made us look to migrate our SAP environment to the cloud.”

Why Amazon Web Services

Ávoris already had experience with the cloud. Since 2014, the company has been running several systems on Amazon Web Services (AWS), including the front-end and back-end infrastructures supporting its websites and e-commerce operations. “AWS gave scalability to our expanding e-commerce operation,” says Ramis. “It was also more cost-effective because we didn't face the upfront costs of building an on-premises platform, and we only paid for the IT resources we used. There was no waste.”

Ávoris saw that migrating its SAP workloads to AWS offered more than just an opportunity to improve performance. It also increased reliability and scalability. “Up to this point, we had never been able to build a satisfactory level of redundancy into the on-premises platform with acceptable costs, and increasing our capacity was not as simple as we would like.”

The company had also learned from previous experience that taking advantage of the cloud can reduce IT management time, and therefore wanted to bring that kind of a benefit to its SAP environment.

Why Linke

Once Ávoris decided to migrate its SAP systems to AWS, they were introduced to Linke, an AWS Partner Network (APN) Premier Consulting Partner, to support the SAP migration. “We told Linke that we had three months to complete the work,” says Ramis. “It had to be finished by June, when the travel season enters the busy summer period.”

Migration work was split into two phases. The first was a proof-of-concept to demonstrate whether Ávoris could integrate all its line-of-business applications with a cloud-based SAP environment and gain significantly better performance across its SAP systems—including SAP HANA and SAP Hybris. In the second phase, Linke and Ávoris migrated the data from the SAP on-premises platform to AWS. “We completed the entire cloud migration of our SAP environment on schedule,” says Ramis. “It showed the great work of Linke and its willingness to collaborate closely with us for the best possible outcome.”

The Results

The Ávoris infrastructure consists of large Amazon Elastic Compute Cloud (Amazon EC2) instances, powered by Intel Xeon E5-2686 v4 processors, to support SAP applications, including SAP HANA. The instances include r4.xlarge for its SAP application server and r4.2xlarge for its enterprise resource planning (ERP) database server. The company uses Amazon Simple Storage Service (Amazon S3) for backups and storage. It also uses Linke AWS Connector for SAP—an add-on that enables direct integration with the Ávoris SAP ERP platform—for archiving objects. This simplifies the archiving process and also reduces costs by eliminating the need for on-premises archiving infrastructure. Ávoris uses Amazon Route 53 to route traffic to their cloud-based SAP environments, which run on an Amazon Virtual Private Cloud (Amazon VPC).

The Benefits

Now that the SAP environments are on AWS, Ávoris is able to better support its users and customers. “Today, when people arrive at work, the SAP ERP workload has been processed and we are ready for our customers. We can handle up to 90,000 invoices,” says Ramis. “Using AWS, our SAP overnight reporting processes are more than 50 percent faster than they were with our on-premises platform.”

The company has also seen a significant improvement in performance during peak hours. Ramis says, “In the past, the average response time for dialog processes of our SAP ERP production system was 1.1 seconds, but on AWS that time has come down to 468 milliseconds—a drop of 57 percent.”

With the scalability of AWS, the risk of the SAP platform outgrowing its infrastructure is significantly reduced. Moreover, because Ávoris can scale the platform up or down, the company has also made its IT more cost-effective. “We don’t pay for unused capacity,” says Ramis. “We can even scale down AWS

during quiet periods when activity on the SAP platform is less intense.”

By working with Linke, Ávoris successfully migrated its business-critical SAP environment to AWS in just three months. “Even with the short time frame, Linke had no problems helping us migrate our SAP workloads to AWS,” says Ramis. “Linke brought a deep level of experience in both AWS and SAP to the project.”

In addition, Ávoris has now reduced management time for the SAP environment, just as the company did for its website and e-commerce operations when it migrated them to AWS in 2014. “Today, IT administrators don’t have to perform repetitive manual tasks related to the management of the SAP platform’s hardware,” says Ramis. “The platform is continuously optimized on AWS. We have also increased the reliability of our SAP environment because of the disaster recovery capabilities built into AWS that are designed to enhance uptimes day in and day out.”

About Linke

- A Premier Consulting Partner in the AWS Partner Network (APN), Linke helps customers harness the power of AWS to run their SAP workloads.
- For more information about how Linke can help transform your infrastructure in the cloud, see [Linke's listing](#) in the AWS Partner Directory.