



**DATABASE  
MANAGEMENT  
WITHOUT THE DBA**

**HOLIDAY PIRATES**

- Industry: Travel
- Location: Germany
- Data Center: 1

**USE CASE**

Consolidation of operations to drive improved efficiency, coupled with the migration to a more complex, highly-available database technology stack.

**WHY SEVERALNINES**

Severalnines offered a comprehensive database solution with an easy-to-use interface to deploy Galera Clusters, manage and monitor their databases without the need to hire a DBA.

**INTRODUCTION**

Holiday Pirates is an online travel company for countries in Germany, Austria, France, Italy, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, the UK and the United States. With their exceptional travel deals, they gained the trust of millions of travellers who have used their services. Holiday Pirates specialize in creating personalized travel plans to fit their customers' unique needs. They currently have over 10 million Facebook followers with more than 30 million people visiting the site.

The Holiday Pirates website experience is personalised by country, giving their customers a "home country" feel when they browse to plan their travel.

**CHALLENGE**

Operating out of various locations, Holiday Pirates had different websites, different databases, and IT infrastructures maintained by different teams. Each team managed its servers, databases, setups, and web systems which increased hardware, but also operation costs. As they grew, it became difficult to manage data from multiple repositories; hence they decided to migrate all data to a single centralized source which could be accessed by web systems in the

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different countries.

They started the consolidation process with the purchase of new servers. They then began embarking on the search for a database management tool to manage the databases. Holiday Pirates wanted to have an automated solution, not only to manage and monitor their databases, but they also wanted an expert team to consult and be on standby, as this would then reduce the need for an in-house DBA.

“We were maintaining several databases and we were running at risk for a single point of failure,” said Abdalaziz Mohamed, Senior DevOps Engineer at Holiday Pirates

“Managing, monitoring and scaling databases were just taking far too much time and we desperately needed a one-stop database automation solution.”

Their tremendous growth required an upgrade to their existing MySQL setup to Galera Cluster. This technology change warranted a tool to facilitate this deployment seamlessly as they needed it in a short turnaround time.

Holiday Pirates needed a fully automated solution to manage their databases and the support of experts to help solve their technical issues, which in return would minimize manual and time-consuming tasks of the IT operations team.

They specifically required a company to be able to “do it all” to manage their databases and provide support services at all times which relieves them of their heavy reliance on DBA’s and guarantee a 99.99% service uptime for their customers to tour around worry-free.

## SOLUTION

Holiday Pirates search for a database management solution came to an end when they found ClusterControl by Severalnines. ClusterControl could deploy, manage, and monitor their new Galera Cluster setup via a web interface and they could find no better match to this. “I couldn’t find any other tools that did everything we needed to do through a GUI,” said Mohamed.

ClusterControl’s advanced features like automatic repair, recovery, and backup features appealed the most to Holiday Pirates, as they provided assurance that they would have high

availability at all times. “ClusterControl was the only database automation tool with a great user interface and rich in high-end features,” said Mohamed.

In addition to the features, Severalnines offers through their support team expertise in Galera Cluster, which Holiday Pirates needed and leveraged to help them with their month long migration and implementation.

## WHY SEVERALNINES?

“With ClusterControl, we now can focus on other operations; the databases need minimal care from us,” said Mohamed. “We are now always notified about the status of our database and able to take corrective and preventive actions instantaneously to ensure high uptime.”

- **Deploy, Manage, and Monitor Your Database from a GUI:** With ClusterControl, you don’t need advanced DBA skills. With a little support and resources from the website, Holiday Pirates was about to scale and manage their databases in no time. They were impressed by how ClusterControl manages complex database operations via a web interface, saving them time and money, eliminating the need for a new DBA.
- **Automated Repair and Recovery:** ClusterControl’s ability to manage database failover automatically with improved uptime was a key feature for Holiday Pirates. In addition to this, ClusterControl’s ability to automatically repair nodes, especially for Galera Cluster, further reduced their chance of prolonged outage.
- **Built-in Integration with Slack:** Easy integration with external chat programs (i.e. Slack) was an added advantage for the Holiday Pirates operations team, as now they can stay up to date with issues and monitor any shortcoming on the status of their database. This allowed the technical team to respond to any problems on errors or failures immediately.

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