



Database management without the DBA



HOLIDAY PIRATES

Industry: Travel
Technologies: Galera, MySQL
Data Centers: 1
Products: ClusterControl

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.

BACKGROUND

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 travelers 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 personalized 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 operating 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 that could be accessed by web systems in the different countries.

We were maintaining several databases and were running at risk for a single point of failure. Managing, monitoring, and scaling databases were just taking far too much time and we desperately needed a one-stop database automation solution.

Abdalaziz Mohamed, Senior DevOps Engineer at Holiday Pirates

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.

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.

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 was the only database automation tool with a great user interface rich in high-end features.

Abdalaziz Mohamed, Senior DevOps Engineer at Holiday Pirates

OUTCOME

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.

"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."