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ClusterControl Helps Cover For You Insurance Group Scale and Guide Their Core Database Through an Increasingly Complex World

Cover For You

Industry: Insurance

Location: Gibraltar

Solution: ClusterControl by Severalnines

Database: Galera

IT Environment: 1 on-premises data center

Use case

Cover For You Insurance Group implemented ClusterControl to gain real-time visibility and automated management over its critical on-premises Galera database clusters. This enabled the smooth handling of 3x traffic spikes and reduced the workload so that a single person could manage the infrastructure.

Why Severalnines

Severalnines enabled the team to automate on-prem Galera clusters and gain enterprise visibility without the high costs of managed services. This self-hosted solution streamlined performance tuning and disaster recovery while ensuring total control over their bare-metal infrastructure.

Background

Cover For You Insurance Group Limited is an award-winning multi-brand, multi-product insurance intermediary based in Gibraltar. Operating in the UK and Gibraltar, the company provides travel, car hire excess, and gadget insurance through four popular brands: CoverForYou Insurance, Cedar Tree Insurance, Insure&Escape Insurance, and Outbacker Insurance. Together, these brands insure over one million people annually.

Challenge

As Cover For You Insurance Group Limited expanded, maintaining a clear and consistent view of their Galera database cluster became increasingly important. The technical team lacked real-time visibility into cluster performance and needed better insights to guide decisions on hardware optimization and capacity planning. Outages were also difficult to detect and diagnose quickly, increasing operational risk.

> "ClusterControl gave us the tools we needed to effectively manage our Galera cluster without having to move to a fully-managed service."
>
> **Alan Dean,** Director, Cover For You Insurance Group Limited

Before engaging Severalnines, the team considered developing in-house automation for backups and Grafana and Prometheus-based monitoring. However, they required a more comprehensive solution that was self-hosted, easy to manage, auditable, and cost-effective.

Solution

After conducting market research and evaluating several options, including MariaDB Enterprise, Cover For You Insurance Group Limited selected ClusterControl. The platform provided the technical depth, and separation of concerns they needed to manage and monitor their bare metal on-prem infrastructure.

The final architecture consists of:
- **3x MySQL Galera primary nodes** for core business operations
- **2x secondary nodes** for backups and read-heavy analytics workloads

Implemented within hours, this deployment delivered a central control plane for monitoring, performance tuning, and backup management without requiring a fully managed service.

Results

ClusterControl enabled Cover For You Insurance Group Limited to gain real-time visibility into database performance, optimize query efficiency, and streamline backup and disaster recovery testing. The information and oversight ClusterControl provides has allowed the team to fine-tune the platform load over time and enabled them to absorb peak traffic without issue, for instance, when they saw quoting volumes triple as the current Middle East crisis unfolded.

> **"It's a great overall solution that fills a gap in the market between unsupported open source and fully managed enterprise systems."**
>
> **Alan Dean,** Director

With better access to metrics and logs, the team can now make informed decisions about resource planning and scaling. It also reduced the management burden on their team, allowing a single person to effectively manage the cluster and freeing up time for the others.

Looking Ahead

Cover For You Insurance Group Limited plans to continue using open-source technologies across their infrastructure and will expand their use of ClusterControl as their database estate grows. The company sees the platform as an essential bridge between community-driven flexibility and enterprise-grade stability, helping them manage their core data repository by streamlining daily tasks and helping them resolve incidents and complete complex operations.

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