

CASE STUDY

Data Center Renewal – Software-Defined Data Center (SDDC)

Support for MALFINI's existing technologies in both data centers had come to an end, and part of the technology had reached the end of its life cycle. MALFINI wanted to continue with fully-automated private cloud technology based on a software-defined data center (SDDC) and hyper-converged infrastructure (HCI) with all their advantages and possibilities.

WHY SDDC

A software-defined data center (SDDC) is an architecture that enables the virtualisation of all data center components – computing power, storage, network elements and security. All of these components are managed through software, enabling greater flexibility, automation and efficiency.



MALFINI CHOSE THE VMWARE CLOUD FOUNDATION (VCF) SDDC SOLUTION.

KEY BENEFITS

The application solution uses completely commodity-certified hardware to run applications. In the future, it will therefore be possible to choose between multiple hardware manufacturers, which will result in predictable costs for further data center expansion and independence from hardware suppliers.

The key benefits of the solution include a complete virtualisation stack, including a container environment, object storage and S3 API, tools for comprehensive management and automation, which reduces the complexity of repetitive maintenance tasks and supports rapid development and process automation, resulting in reduced operational costs, error rates and other negatives associated with the operation of a complex system.

The solution can be easily extended to the public cloud using an integral component that enables hybrid cloud operation, providing immediate access to resources when they are suddenly needed.

The solution includes protection against ransomware attack. This area has undergone significant development and a wide range of solutions is available. For backup data storage, we used technology from the only US security agency-certified manufacturer. The device can also be configured to withstand attacks from within the company.

Choosing the right supplier for this project was crucial. Given the requirements and deadlines the choice was not easy, but it confirmed that with the right partner, almost anything is possible.

Everything turned out perfectly, and I must say that Anect did a really great job.



Milan Dřizhal
CIO
Malfini

Malfini is one of the leading suppliers of promotional textiles in the Czech Republic and Europe. With the MALFINI®, MALFINI Premium® and Piccolio® brands complementing RIMECK® work-wear, they supply their products to 35 European countries and have a clear goal – to become the largest distributor of promotional textiles in Europe.

MALFINI has been based in Ústí nad Labem for 20 years, with a modern logistics center in Ostrava and a new development center built in Prague in 2022. All products are shipped from a modern warehouse in Ostrava. The company cares about the quality of its products, so it uses a well-thought-out system for accepting and inspecting manufactured textiles. Their products stand out for their variety of cuts, weights, materials and colours. They have been on the market for over 25 years, have 280 employees and 50 sales representatives.

VCF ADVANTAGES OF VMWARE CLOUD FOUNDATION (VCF)

Cost reduction: With higher virtual machine density, hyper-converged storage and integrated Kubernetes runtime, VCF helps reduce infrastructure and operating costs. VCF has tools for monitoring trends and optimising IT resource utilisation, which leads to lower operating costs.

Flexibility and scalability: VCF provides flexibility for deploying applications in various cloud environments (private, public, edge and CSP) and enables easy scaling according to business needs.

Security, control and compliance: VCF includes advanced security features, such as micro-segmentation and application analytics tools, which increase security and control over the IT environment. This allows for greater protection of sensitive data, such as design proposals or customer PII data. Facilitates compliance with legislative requirements, regulations and standards that do not jeopardise cross-border business activities (especially in the area of personal data protection).

Support for modern applications: VCF is designed to modernise data centers and deploy modern container-based applications, enabling organisations to develop and innovate faster.

Improved customer experience: Thanks to high-quality and flexible IT, MALFINI can provide faster and more reliable services, thereby increasing customer satisfaction and strengthening brand loyalty. Through modern applications and analytical tools, it can better personalise offers and provide tailored-made products and services.

Improved employee comfort: Employees will have faster access to higher-quality applications that will make their work easier and more coordinated across locations in Ostrava, Prague and Ústí nad Labem.

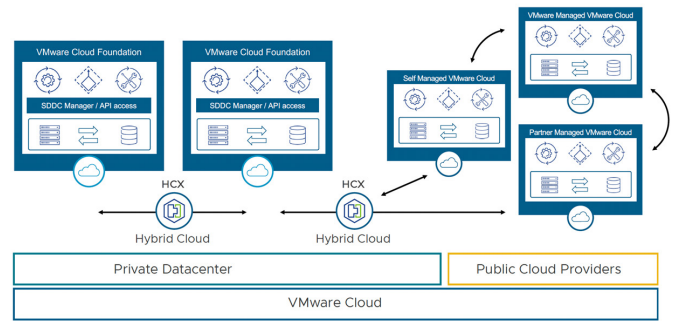
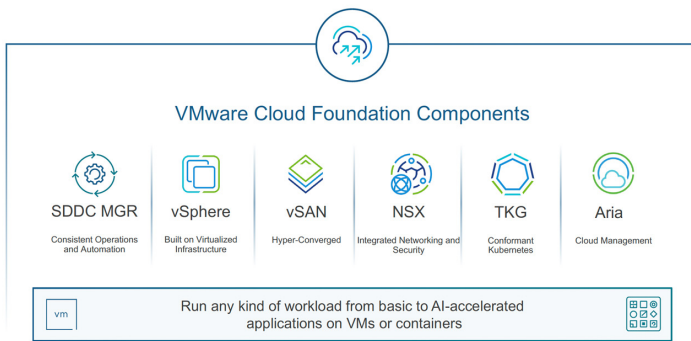
MONITORING & TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Monitoring: The Monitoring service is provided by the ANECT monitoring center (DCA) in a continuous 24/7 mode (24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year). The service is staffed by DCA operators who work in shifts, day and night, are permanently physically present at the workplace and available at any time of the day or night. All with the obligation to report the occurrence of a critical situation within 30 minutes of its emergence.

Support: Requests are handled by an ANECT technical support specialist on a 24/7 basis.

TECHNOLOGIES USED

- Cisco Nexus LAN
- Fortinet firewall and SDWAN
- NetApp for Data Archive Storage
- VSAN Ready Node from HP GreenLake and Dell
- Veeam backup
- Virtualisation of the entire VMware VCF data center



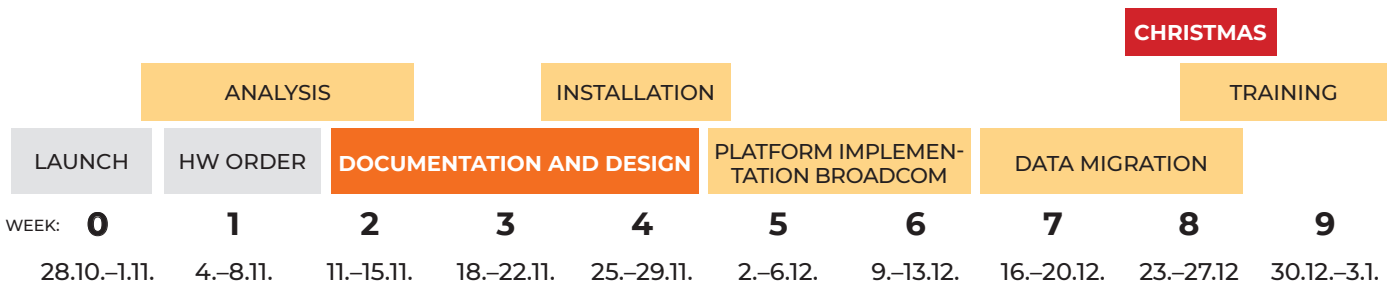
THE BIGGEST CHALLENGES

Although the VCF solution is precisely prepared for deployment and operation, its implementation requires careful preparation and coordination of all steps with the customer, who is the only one with a complete overview of their IT environment. This was a challenge for us as **the project had a strict deadline**.

Failure-free migration from the original server farm to the newly delivered VCF solution took place over the Christmas period. From the business perspective, this is one of the busiest periods for the customer, which was associated with a high degree of risk.

FROM ANALYSIS TO DELIVERY IN A RECORD TIME OF 2 MONTHS*

* INCLUDING CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS



The project was implemented during the busy pre-Christmas period, when the previous technology was reaching the end of its life cycle. It was essential to meet strict deadlines, secure the necessary capacity and precisely adhere to the work schedule. Despite the pressure and challenges, we managed to successfully complete the project without any complications.



Petr Mojžíšek
Head of Infrastructure Department, ANECT