SAIC®

KEY CHALLENGES
- Help government customers adopt more secure, enterprise cloud services
- Micro-segment networks to promptly and effectively isolate cyberthreats
- Optimize cloud cost management for the public sector
- Facilitate better technology business management conversations

SOLUTION

With its government clients eager to modernize IT and take advantage of cloud economics, SAIC decided to rebuild its own infrastructure and prepare to offer customers enterprise cloud services that encompass both private and public clouds. SAIC built its new infrastructure based on a VMware Validated Design™, using VMware vCloud Suite® and VMware NSX® Data Center to enable a fully automated hybrid cloud that meets government security standards.

SAIC Helps Modernize Government IT with Secure Hybrid Cloud Management

When your largest client is the U.S. government, you have to be very good at what you do. A systems integration firm dedicated to helping government clients modernize IT systems and manage cybersecurity risks, Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) strives to be the best in the business. The stakes are high: Unlike the private sector where damage from cyberattacks is usually financial, the federal sector has much more to lose because of national security. As government organizations move their applications from legacy mainframes to private and public clouds, security and cost management are top of mind.

To help manage national cybersecurity threats, SAIC uses VMware vCloud Suite for its own private cloud operations as customer zero and for key government customers. Based on a VMware Validated Design, SAIC's enterprise cloud services leverage the hybrid cloud management capabilities of VMware vRealize® Suite to speed infrastructure delivery, and use micro-segmentation with VMware NSX Data Center to help keep government networks more secure. In the near future, SAIC will use VMware Cloud™ on AWS to give customers an easy way to rapidly extend on-premises VMware environments to public cloud.

SAIC provides information technology, system integration, and e-business solutions to customers worldwide. These solutions include big data and analytics, cloud computing, cybersecurity, IT-managed services, networks and communications, and software and mobility services.

The challenge

The U.S. government has more than 7,000 critical infrastructure applications, many running on mainframes and legacy infrastructure. As more of these applications move to cloud environments, governance and security are absolutely critical.

"We're seeing a dramatic shift toward technology modernization, and we have to have frameworks to deliver consistent governance across disparate cloud platforms," says Coby Holloway, vice president of cloud and digital infrastructure at SAIC. "We want to help our customers accelerate and optimize their adoption of cloud services by giving them a cloud management platform that will serve as the anchor for governance, security, and workflow."

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BUSINESS BENEFITS

• Automates provisioning of highly secure cloud infrastructure

• Helps make government technology competitive with the industry

• Reduces IT costs by centralizing cloud management and monitoring

• Gives government CIOs the ability to more effectively communicate the value of IT

Government is also moving away from traditional capital planning and investment control toward technology business management, which requires CIOs to more effectively communicate the business value of IT to other executives, particularly the CFO. To meet this need, SAIC must give customers better visibility into cloud cost management by helping them automate cloud cost analysis, consumption metering, cloud comparison, and planning.

The solution

Already a VMware customer, SAIC decided to refresh its own infrastructure as customer zero, using vCloud Suite to support a hybrid cloud model. By bringing together the VMware vSphere® hypervisor with the vRealize Suite cloud management platform, vCloud Suite allows SAIC to automate provisioning in its private cloud and across major public clouds, such as Amazon Web Services (AWS), Azure, and Google Cloud Platform. By predefining and preconfiguring resources and services embedded with security policies according to templates that meet government security standards, SAIC can significantly improve time to market both internally and for customers.

"vSphere is the primary virtualization platform in use by most of our customers," says Holloway. "Additionally, the direction that VMware has taken its solutions clearly demonstrates leadership in cyber and compliance."

SAIC also deployed NSX Data Center for network virtualization and micro-segmentation, which are key capabilities needed to defend the U.S. from cybersecurity threats. The combination of VMware vRealize Automation™ and NSX Data Center allows for the automated deployment of network-based security policies to counter rapidly changing security threats. While vRealize Automation and NSX Data Center are both powerful solutions when used on their own, together they allow SAIC to build more secure cloud environments with just a few clicks.

"We partner with the government to create new security services and new ways of engaging and protecting the nation's most critical information assets," says Holloway. "We view the combination of automation and software-defined networking, like we get with NSX Data Center, as being fundamental to being able to respond to the types of cyberthreats facing our nation and our customers today."

To provide its customers with the most reliable enterprise cloud services, SAIC certified its software-defined data center (SDDC) as a VMware Validated Design. This reduces risk by helping ensure software interoperability and consistent configuration between the virtualized servers, network, and other components.

"We partnered with VMware to build our next-generation data center on a VMware Validated Design, which required a rigorous testing and validation process," says Holloway. "We were able to interact with VMware leadership and technology teams. As a result, we're able to bring that same confidence and validation rigor to our customers."

Business results and benefits

With hybrid cloud automation and provisioning, SAIC helps make government technology competitive with the private sector, offering customers a cloud management platform to broker and oversee the delivery of cloud services. SAIC and its customers can now provision resources and entire platforms that meet all applicable government security standards within minutes.

"Applying automation, rapid provisioning, self-service—all those elements that we get from VMware give us a competitive advantage and a differentiator in terms of addressing our government customers' needs more quickly than our competition," says Holloway.

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"I'm excited about using VMware Cloud on AWS. The more tools we can give the government to achieve milestones on its cloud journey quickly, the better off we all are."

COBY HOLLOWAY
VP OF CLOUD AND DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE
SAIC

VMWARE FOOTPRINT
- VMware Cloud
- VMware vCloud Suite
- VMware vSphere 6.7
- VMware vRealize Suite
- VMware vRealize Automation
- VMware vRealize Operations™
- VMware vRealize Log Insight™
- VMware vRealize Business for Cloud
- VMware vRealize Lifecycle Manager™
- VMware NSX Data Center Advanced

APPLICATIONS VIRTUALIZED
Critical infrastructure applications for government customers

PLATFORM
Dell

By using NSX Data Center to provide a software-defined fabric for delivering virtual security appliances and virtual networking, SAIC can now explore new opportunities to provide enhanced security services to the government.

"NSX Data Center gives us new ways to meet threats," says Holloway. "We can put machine learning and artificial intelligence in the data center fabric, interface it with NSX Data Center, and then have the network react to cyberthreats much faster than an operator on a keyboard."

Moving applications to a hybrid cloud based on VMware will also enable centralizing management and monitoring for SAIC's customers, helping them reduce IT costs and spend taxpayer dollars more efficiently. VMware vRealize Business™ for Cloud will provide the data they need to better understand cloud costs and make the appropriate investments to get the most out of cloud services.

"With vRealize Business for Cloud, we'll be able to give government CIOs the reporting and visualizations they need to talk to the CFO in consistent language and more effectively express the value of IT," says Holloway.

Looking ahead

In the future, instead of the U.S. government having thousands of applications with their own supporting infrastructure, SAIC envisions a nation that will have thousands of configurations running on just a handful of platforms. As a result, the government will be able to put more energy into its mission and worry less about the distractions of managing IT services. As more government agencies look to extend their VMware environments to public cloud, SAIC will use VMware Cloud on AWS to make hybrid cloud a seamless reality.

"VMware is a critical part of the nation's infrastructure today, and I'm excited about using VMware Cloud on AWS as an enabler for infrastructure-centric migration," says Holloway. "The more tools we can give the government to achieve milestones on its cloud journey quickly and start seeing some of those economies of scale and agility benefits, the better off we all are."