

Modernizing financial applications with distributed cloud services

Meet customer expectations quickly and securely



Meet FutureTrade

FutureTrade, a large financial services company, runs their stock trading platform, back office and analytics applications on IBM middleware; WebSphere Application Server to serve requests, DB2 to handle transaction data, and MQ for messaging. FutureTrade’s applications are built as a traditional stack architecture and run on virtualized hardware on-premises. FutureTrade development teams release new features in six-month cycles.



Destination

Streamlined operations with application development versatility

With financial services, customers increasingly want flexibility in how they access and work with funds. To remain competitive, FutureTrade must meet those expectations more quickly. That requires modernizing their applications; decomposing them into independent but connected smaller services.

FutureTrade expected to fund app modernization by reducing infrastructure expenses. They moved their applications from virtualized infrastructure on-premises to infrastructure as a service in AWS datacenters.



Challenges

Maintaining software in cloud provider datacenters

Lifting and shifting workloads onto virtual machines in AWS datacenters provided the scalability FutureTrade needed. However, they needed operations staff in all cloud provider datacenters to regularly update software.

In each datacenter where they operate, FutureTrade must also set up and maintain all necessary controls to enforce compliance with financial regulations.

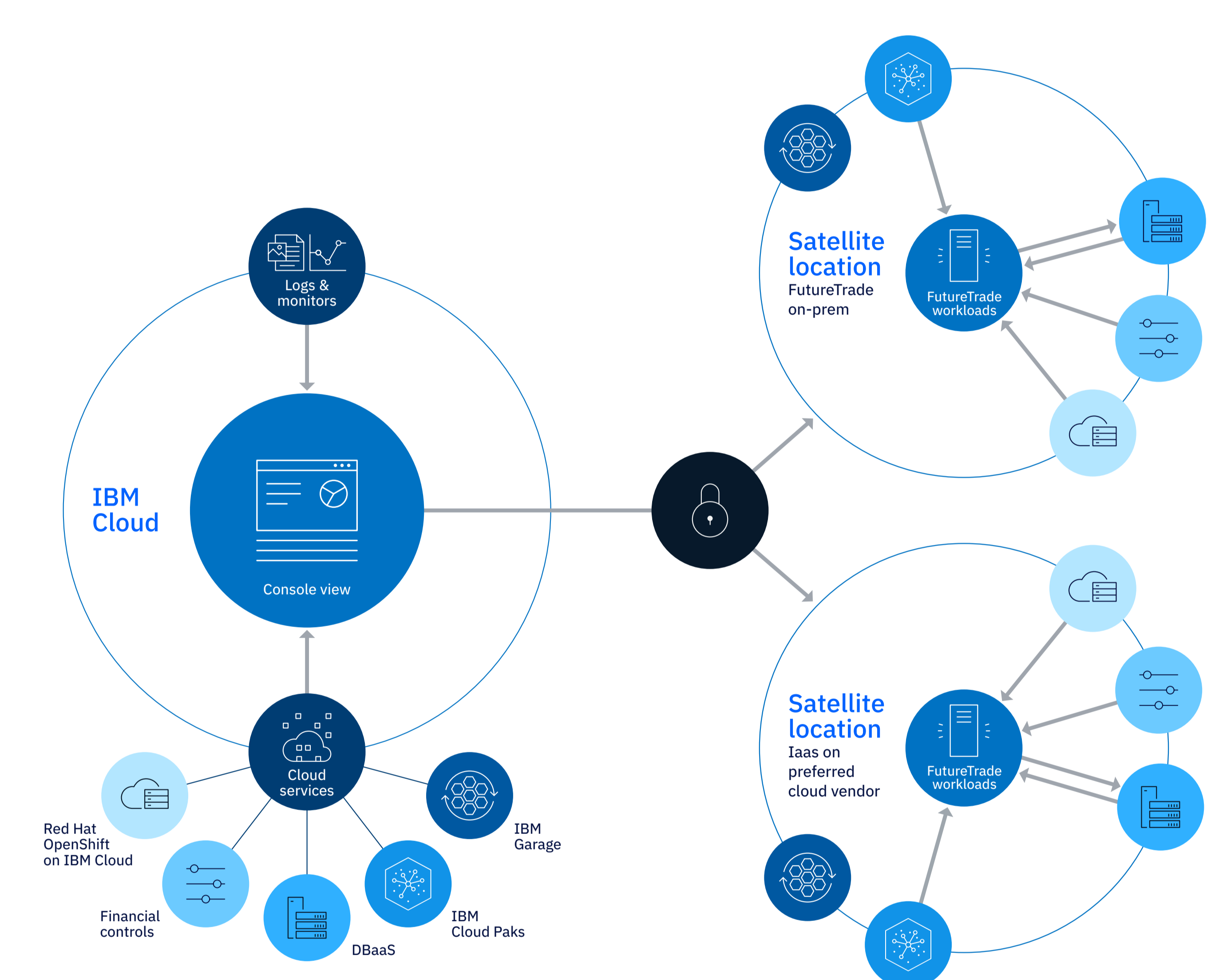
And modernizing their applications requires expertise with cloud-native tools and practices FutureTrade teams currently do not have.

Enter IBM Cloud Satellite

IBM Cloud Satellite extends cloud services and software to any location—on-premises, to other clouds, and at edge sites. A Satellite location is any set of hosts designated for running IBM Cloud software and services.

From a single console, FutureTrade can distribute the mission-critical IBM software they need—in Cloud Paks—directly onto infrastructure in their cloud provider’s datacenters.

IBM Cloud Paks relieves FutureTrade of IT chores that are not essential to their business.



By reducing and consolidating operations with Satellite, FutureTrade realized they could start modernizing their applications sooner than expected. Using Red Hat OpenShift on IBM Cloud, a Satellite service, FutureTrade set up container orchestration on infrastructure in their same 3rd party datacenters where they run their production workloads.

Satellite provides Red Hat OpenShift on IBM Cloud with built-in financial controls, allowing FutureTrade to modernize apps.

Besides Red Hat OpenShift, the FutureTrade team uses Satellite to quickly provision a wide range of databases with other cloud services, enabling them to prototype and develop app enhancements almost as quickly as they can think of them.

IBM Cloud Satellite is tightly connected with IBM Garage, which helps clients gain experience with cloud-native tools and ways of working. To help their team move faster, FutureTrade embedded IBM Garage experts to advise on how best to modernize one of their key applications into container-based components.

Developers in different offices collaborated on that work using Satellite's identity and access management. In just 12 weeks, the identity and access team defined and delivered a minimum viable product (MVP) that both streamlined the FutureTrade stock trading app and directly improved user experience as evaluated by a recruited test group.

Result

FutureTrade accelerated their cloud strategy

In completing their initial minimum viable product, the FutureTrade team was able to define and prioritize work in their next series of sprints.

By enabling FutureTrade to centrally manage applications in multiple versions and locations, IBM Cloud Satellite has become critical to FutureTrade in evolving production deployments. With Red Hat OpenShift, FutureTrade can configure how they want their modernized apps to run, consistently and securely, whenever and wherever they choose.

Cloud Satellite enables FutureTrade to:

Remotely manage updates of mission-critical IBM software running in their cloud provider’s datacenters

Hand-off maintenance to IBM SRE teams in any location where FutureTrade provisions Satellite services and software

Use Red Hat OpenShift as a consistent container orchestration platform on which to prototype and deploy modern prototypes and production apps

Monitor and manage deployed cloud services and applications from a single console view

Manage risk by using cloud services with built-in financial controls and consistent access and identity management

While this is a real case study, FutureTrade is a pseudonym.