UCSD Takes Charge of its Multi-Cloud Environment with NCM Cost Governance (formerly Nutanix Beam)

About UCSD

Industry: Higher Education
Geo: North America
Employees: 41,000
Website: https://ucsd.edu/

Products:

◦ Cost Governance

◦ Nutanix Cloud Manager (NCM)

Ready to get Hands-On?

Take a Test Drive

Key Outcomes

NCM Cost Governance, (formerly Beam), by Nutanix, to provide visibility into usage costs across a multi-cloud academic and research campus

Applied automated compliance checks and one-click security mitigation to improve compliance with government and academic requirements

Streamlined and automated administrative tasks

> " **Cost Governance has paid for itself by providing the insight we need to control costs. In one instance, we uncovered an API on a development environment that did not need to be running, and shut it off, saving thousands of dollars per month.** "
>
> **Declan Fleming,**
> Enterprise Architect for Cloud, UCSD

Challenge

UCSD is an innovative, forward-looking institution that runs some IT operations in the cloud. With 1100 AWS accounts on campus—100 of which are major accounts for researchers, instructors, and administrators—IT faced serious challenges in understanding, optimizing, and managing costs of these fast-growing services. "When I came to UCSD it was essentially the wild, wild west," said Gabriel Edwards, Product Manager and Cloud Services Manager, Workplace Technology Services at UCSD. "Everybody had their own AWS account, some of which were tied to their personal accounts and credit cards and expensed to their department. There was minimal oversight." The UCSD IT staff needed a

solution that could help ensure consistency, security, and efficient cost tracking for its hundreds of cloud accounts.

Solution

To ensure that users could continue to enjoy the freedom to adopt the cloud solutions they needed in a standardized, compliant way, the IT staff began bringing cloud accounts under the umbrella of an AWS enterprise agreement. "Cloud users basically join our club, and they don't have to deal with billing every month," said Edwards. "We do direct billing to their ledger, and they can continue to use AWS. The downside is that it creates a huge administrative overhead."

Cost Governance gives the UCSD IT team the capabilities it needs to address the administrative overhead—and do much more. It enables deep visibility and rich analytics detailing cloud consumption patterns, along with one-click cost optimization across cloud environments. "The dashboard is clean and easy to use, and the regular summary emails are a huge help in enabling us to spot potential anomalies," said Declan Fleming, Enterprise Architect for Cloud at UCSD. "Cost Governance provided the tools we need to inspect and aggregate information, so we can make sense of it."

Benefits

Serving almost 40,000 students from across the world, University of California, San Diego is a leading public university. Public cloud services support research and instruction at the institution, but the IT team lacked insight into how and where these services were being used, their costs, and their levels of security and compliance. The University deployed Nutanix Cost Governance to gain visibility and control over its cloud usage and improve compliance with government and academic regulations. The solution gives faculty and researchers the freedom to continue to take advantage of the agility and flexibility of cloud, while managing costs, minimizing risks, and streamlining administrative tasks.

Next Steps

With its solution in place, UCSD is exploring ways to further tailor its multi-cloud environment to better align with specific compliance needs. "We like Cost Governance's ability to customize our security capabilities with Python scripting," said Fleming.

Ready to modernize your infrastructure? See how Nutanix can help you simplify your hybrid multicloud management. Test Drive Nutanix Cloud Manager

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