Keeping South Africa's minibus taxis moving

SA Taxi

Eager to improve delivery of custom-designed app solutions and improve insights from its data, SA Taxi implemented a simple-to-manage Lenovo ThinkAgile MX solution with Azure Stack HCI, lowering TCO and increasing performance.

Lenovo

Who is
SA Taxi?

SA Taxi finances entrepreneurs who operate minibus taxis that may not otherwise have access to credit from traditional banks, contributing to job creation and enabling and improving the safety of public transport in South Africa. Of the estimated 250,000 taxis on the roads in South Africa, SA Taxi finances more than 36,000.

SA Taxi offers more than just finance; it provides a complete, one-stop-shop solution for taxi businesses, including vehicle insurance and a loyalty program with cash rewards and exclusive benefits. SA Taxi is part of the Transaction Capital group of companies, listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

SA Taxi

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The
Challenge

The taxi industry ensures that South Africans—including the vast majority of the country's workforce—get to and from their destinations on time at the lowest cost. According to the Statistics SA 2020 Household Survey, taxi operators transport over 15 million commuters every day. SA Taxi vehicles alone move three million people every day, traveling more than four million kilometers.

To help keep taxis on the road and commuters moving, SA Taxi builds data-driven products that meet its customers' specific needs. Sibo Dladla, IT Executive at SA Taxi, elaborates: "We don't just devise new features and products and hope to sell them. We tailor everything in response to the customer, providing niche products for the minibus taxi industry."

To support ongoing innovation and development efforts—and keep customer services running smoothly—SA Taxi embarked on a major IT modernization project. As the first step, the company looked to bring its IT infrastructure back in house from a managed service provider. The aim was to take back control of its systems, consolidate and simplify its environment, and cut costs.

"We've done a lot of work over the last few years to upgrade and consolidate our systems. Our goal was to modernize and simplify our IT, so we could provide the best possible support to the business."

Sibo Dladla
IT Executive, SA Taxi

All-in-one infrastructure

SA Taxi teamed up with Lamont IT to bring its IT back in house, first moving systems from the cloud to an on-premises three-tier Lenovo ThinkSystem infrastructure before upgrading to a hyperconverged infrastructure (HCI) based on a Lenovo ThinkAgile solution with Azure Stack HCI.

"The Lenovo ThinkSystem servers and storage served us well for several years," recalls Sibo Dladla. "But when the time came to refresh the hardware, we were eager to move to an HCI solution and consolidate to one platform. The simplicity and flexibility of HCI aligned well with our goals for IT."

Working with Lamont IT, SA Taxi implemented a four-node Lenovo ThinkAgile MX cluster at its data center in Midrand. This supports customer-facing and back-office applications, as well as dev and test environments.

Hardware
Lenovo ThinkAgile MX Certified Nodes

Software
Microsoft Azure Stack HCI

Services
Lenovo Premier Support

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"Lamont IT helped us to migrate workloads from the cloud back onto on-premises hardware and, more recently, to the Lenovo ThinkAgile solution with Azure Stack HCI. We're very happy to have our workloads back in our own data center; it's much easier to manage and more cost-effective too."

Sibo Dladla
IT Executive, SA Taxi

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Results

By moving to the Lenovo ThinkAgile solution with Azure Stack HCI, SA Taxi has successfully simplified its IT landscape. "In terms of management, moving to the Lenovo ThinkAgile solution with Azure Stack HCI is the best decision I've ever made," says Sibo Dladla. "Everything is so easy to see and manage from a single point of control. I know exactly where my workloads are and who has access to them."

As well as being easier to manage, the new HCI solution has given SA Taxi a significant performance boost. "Once we had migrated all our workloads to HCI stack, the performance really changed," confirms Sibo Dladla. "The stability of our systems and databases improved, and users have felt the difference in application response times."

What's more, SA Taxi is saving in IT costs compared to hosting systems with a third party. "Taking just one workload as an example, hosting our SQL Server environment in the cloud would cost the same every 18 months as purchasing two Lenovo ThinkAgile MX nodes," says Sibo Dladla.

✓ Lower TCO   ✓ Faster performance   ✓ Simple management frees up resources for innovation

"With the Lenovo ThinkAgile solution with Azure Stack HCI, we have a modern, high-performance infrastructure that's simple to manage and runs reliably. This frees us to focus more time on the needs of the business and innovation, so we can keep delivering the niche products that keep taxis on the road."

Sibo Dladla
IT Executive, SA Taxi

Why Lenovo?

When considering the move to HCI, SA Taxi consulted with long-time technology partner Lamont IT who recommended Lenovo ThinkAgile MX Series.

Sibo Dladla comments: "We trust Lamont IT and Lamont IT trusts Lenovo, so we had complete confidence in their proposal. Before making the move to HCI we used Lenovo ThinkSystem in our data center, and we were very happy with the reliability of the hardware."

Partner perspective: Lamont IT

" "We know that we can rely on Lenovo to support us and our clients. When we ran into some road bumps during the design and deployment of SA Taxi's solution, the Lenovo team was there to help us and keep the project on track."

Brad Lamont
Owner, Lamont IT

How can businesses dedicate more resources to innovation?

SA Taxi relieves the pressure on its IT team by moving to a simple-to-manage hyperconverged infrastructure.

Explore Lenovo ThinkAgile MX Series

Lenovo