CASE STUDY

High-speed access to the AWS Cloud thanks to a direct connection: Why EXXETA uses AWS Direct Connect instead of VPN tunnels

About Exxeta

EXXETA stands for the unique combination of business and IT focusing on the automotive, energy, and financial services industries. As an independent and medium-sized technology and consulting company, we offer our customers holistic, innovative solutions: from specialist and IT consulting to self-developed software products and the design and implementation of cutting-edge strategies and new business models.

exxeta

The task

EXXETA AG designs, develops, and operates software for the digitalization of companies. For the support and operation of its solutions, virtual machines, and cloud services at various cloud providers have been used for several years. Many customers in the Frankfurt region already use the services of the AWS Cloud, supported by EXXETA AG. Despite the many advantages of cloud use, there was also a down side; access via VPN wasn't always the best fit for the use cases. The IT service provider GISA was asked: Can clouds be accessed faster, more robustly, and more reliably? Yes, indeed they can. The combination of Amazon Web Services (AWS) with its connection service DirectConnect and the direct connection via envia TEL to DE-CIX offered the best price-performance ratio and was declared to be the best choice.

The implementation

The connection was implemented as a redundant 2× 200 Mbit/s (now 2× 1 Gbit/s) AWS DirectConnect service from GISA's data centers in Halle and Taucha in the east of Germany (using envia TEL's Leipzig data center) to the AWS cloud region in Frankfurt in the west of Germany. Two different data centers in Frankfurt are connected to the AWS cloud with redundant network gateways. In this case, envia TEL is the carrier providing the access to the Cloud Exchange from DE-CIX in Frankfurt. GISA has a long-standing

good cooperation with envia TEL, which is particularly reflected in the relatively short implementation time of connections and their cloud connectivity expertise.

EXXETA has co-located its own virtualization landscape in GISA's data center in Halle. It uses both its own infrastructure, GISA's shared infrastructure from two data centers (Halle and Taucha near Leipzig), and AWS infrastructure - a "hybrid multicloud" approach. GISA works with Layer2 IP network connections between the two data centers.

"Our colleagues save time with AWS Direct Connect – there is a single connection with dedicated SLAs instead of countless VPN connections. It feels like the connection is now twice as fast as before and it really increases employee productivity."

Marco Manngatter
Head of IT Infrastructure at EXXETA

The result

EXXETA is satisfied with the connectivity service and has already ordered a massive bandwidth increase, as employees can now work noticeably more productively and more and more AWS cloud services are to be connected directly. The quality of the connection has significantly improved. It now runs stably and smoothly – enabling EXXETA to fulfill its customer promise of stable and reliable operation for sometimes critical and highavailability systems.

"The rapid implementation of care and maintenance work on our customers' productive systems is a central element of our value proposition. We support critical applications from the energy sector, for example, where there are price feeds with the power exchange or compliance-relevant audit logs. Our colleagues save time with AWS Direct Connect – there is a single connection with dedicated SLAs instead of countless VPN connections. It feels like the connection is now twice as fast as before and it really increases employee productivity", comments Marco Manngatter, Head of IT Infrastructure at EXXETA.

Benefits

→ Greatly reduced latency to the AWS Cloud

→ A single dedicated connection instead of countless VPN tunnels

→ Safeguarding the connection from security-relevant external interference

→ Connection susceptibility to interference reduced, no more complaints

The service in the background: DE-CIX DirectCLOUD

The direct cloud connection via envia TEL to the Cloud Exchange of DE-CIX in Frankfurt was implemented using the DE-CIX DirectCLOUD service. DirectCLOUD offers:

→ A direct connection to 50+ cloud providers

→ Guaranteed low latency and guaranteed bandwidth

→ Territorial routing of data packets

Furthermore, a connection via DE-CIX DirectCLOUD is:

→ Isolated from the public Internet

→ SLA-supported

→ DDoS-free

DE CIX

About DE-CIX

As the leading Internet Exchange operator and interconnection provider, we help companies to realize new opportunities and future-proof their connectivity needs to manage growing data volumes and new applications. From easy and secure cloud connection to creating interconnection ecosystems, we make interconnection easy. Anywhere.

Find out more at de-cix.net.

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