Acquia®

Building Success on Acquia Cloud:
3 Reasons to Make the Move

Table of Contents

Introduction

Today, staying ahead of the competition requires a great digital experience that can grow to meet the ever changing needs of the public. The platform you build on must enable you to keep pace with the speed of the web and innovate with ease. Acquia Cloud is the most scalable, reliable, and secure platform--optimized to build, deliver and optimize drupal sites and applications.

Backed up by an operations team staffed by world-class drupal experts, Acquia Cloud brings together the best in drupal platform, tools, and support. With Acquia Cloud, you bring your code and files, and Acquia handles the rest.

From the Metropolitan Transit Authority providing emergency service notification when Superstorm Sandy struck the east Coast, to the Grammys providing uninterrupted services to viewers on their busiest day of the year, Acquia Cloud provides the platform for billions of web transactions every month that power a sizeable chunk of the web.
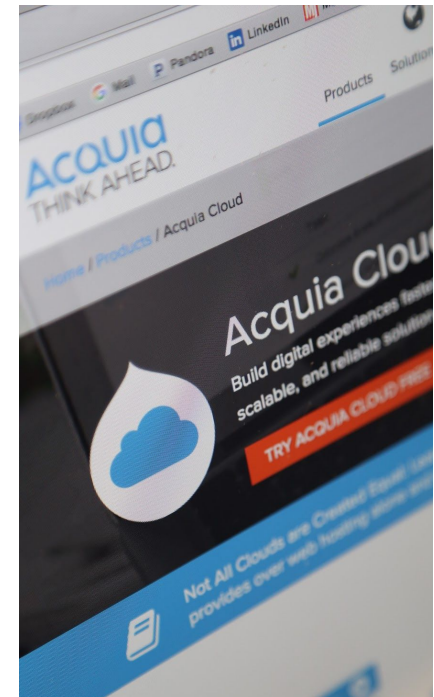
This eBook serves as an introduction to Acquia Cloud and explains the combination of services and support that provide success you can build on..

Who's using Acquia Cloud?

As the world becomes more mobile, organizations are finding innovative ways to keep their users informed. The best are anticipating, rather than reacting to, change. Acquia Cloud provides the framework on which these great digital experiences can develop.

When Hurricane Sandy struck the east Coast in October of 2012, New York City was hit hard, leaving its inhabitants without power. With 8.4 million riders daily, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA)—a vital transportation service of the city—needed to find a way to make sure its users knew if the service was up and running and if there were any key updates during the storm.

With the public's safety as first priority, increasing their bandwidth and integrating an alert messaging system became first priority. The MTA created a weather and emergency notification service through Acquia Cloud so that its users
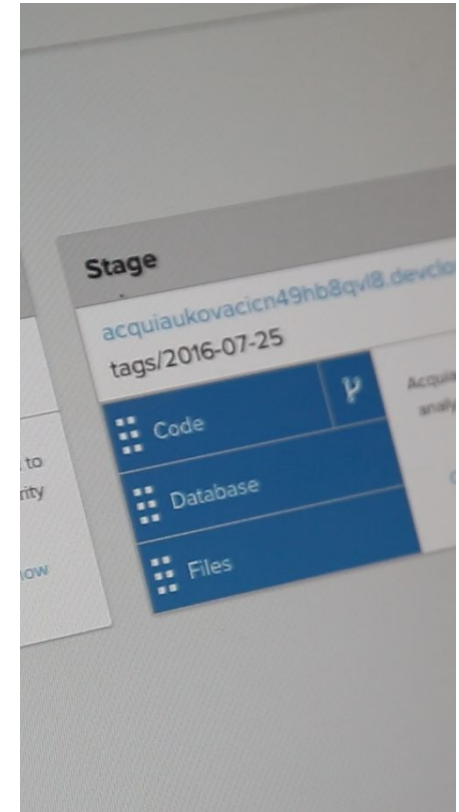
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could receive the latest updates during an emergency or storm.

The GRAMMYS has used Acquia Cloud for several years to ensure that their site is live and accessible during their most highly trafficked days of the year — before, during, and after the annual awards show. Acquia Cloud provides the resiliency, elasticity, and performance necessary for The GRAMMYS team to deliver a seamless experience to fans and viewers.

Achieve the Best Performance with a Drupal-tuned Platform

There are three main aspects of Acquia Cloud that allow Acquia customers to deliver great digital experiences quickly and with confidence:

- **Effortless Management:** Acquia Cloud consists of a drupal-optimized technology stack, built on Amazon elastic Compute Cloud (eC2). "drupal-tuned" means Acquia has selected technologies to run on top of Amazon because drupal scalability needs are unique. Across all layers—database, file system, operating system, and web server—Acquia Cloud uses technologies proven to ensure scalability and reliability for high performance drupal sites.

- **Development tools:** Acquia Cloud includes an entire suite of application assurance tools that take the guess work out of performance tuning and quality assurance activities. The development workflow environment comes with three pre-established environments: Dev, Stage, and Production. The environments are preconfigured and ready for drupal development, and make testing and deploying code in small batches easy. Developers can build their own tests into the environment by using our Cloud API, Acquia Insight. For applications in production, Acquia Insight runs 200+ tests against the drupal code to evaluate for performance, security, and drupal best practices. This combination of tools enables developers to stop fighting fires and focus on coding.

- **Unparalleled Reliability:** Infrastructure and application support once the application is launched successfully in production, it still needs to be maintained continually. Acquia Cloud customers gain a significant extension to their team through our drupal application and Cloud operations support teams. We're available to help triage any issue, whether it's drupal or infrastructure related, and ensure your success. We work 24x7x365 so you don't have to.
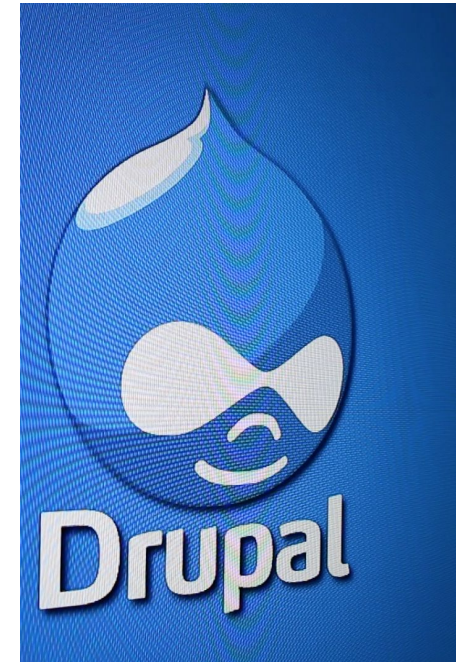
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Gain the Best Team of Cloud ops and drupal Support Pros

What we mean when we say "You build extraordinary digital experiences. We do the rest" is that we have not only the best tools, but also the best support team for ensuring drupal success. Whether it be constant monitoring of your site or recommending resources that will meet your needs, the Acquia Cloud operations Team is there for you. And if the infrastructure is fine but the application is unresponsive, our team of drupal support pros are there to triage the issue.

– Our operations team becomes yours. The ops team is tasked with monitoring and maintaining all the infrastructure that Acquia runs. Acquia runs over 13,000 EC2 instances on the Amazon Web Services (AWS) Cloud around the world. The team is focused on keeping the platform up to date, keeping it secure with monitoring for alerts, and reacting to those alerts in real time. Working with our drupal application support team allows them to get to the root cause and get the right solution in place very quickly. Because the team is monitoring infrastructure 24x7x365, they're able to respond very quickly, change the configuration of the machines, either scaling up or scaling out to accommodate peaks in usage.

– Sometimes a traffic spike or a resource change can be the result of simply increased traffic to the site, so it can be that the national media picked up your page or article; it might be that you're running a new campaign that is getting more traction than you expected. These are legitimate reasons that you might need to look at scaling up the hardware, but maybe only for a temporary window, and we can do that.

– Expand your drupal expertise with the best drupal support team. On the application side, you might see a change in resource utilization because someone simply changed the way the application works. For instance, they turned off caching at a specific area, which drastically increased page load times. What our team can do is work with your team to determine where that's happening, so they can apply the fix to the application as quickly as possible.

Whether an issue is infrastructure or application related, Acquia Cloud has your back. This eliminates finger pointing between infrastructure or application vendors and provides the fastest path to resolution.

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Rest Assured Your Site is Secure, Performing and Scaling to Meet demands

In addition to the scalability and reliability that we offer our customers, Acquia Cloud is the most secure drupal platform available. Our policies, procedures, certifications, and levels of compliance are viewable at any time on our website. It is Acquia's utmost priority to pursue compliance with the requirements that our customers need to abide by. As a few examples, Acquia Cloud is in compliance with government requirements such as FISMA and FedRamp, Financial Services requirements such as SSAe16, and Healthcare requirements such as HIPAA. For full details, please reference Acquia Cloud documentation.

Acquia is also a close partner with Amazon Web Services. This translates to value for our customers in two ways.

- We know how to best architect our system for resiliency: Many organizations are concerned about downtime if they move their critical applications to the cloud. Acquia has invested significant resources in improving our resiliency and high availability architecture in a way that ensures our clients are less at risk in the event of an AWS outage.

- Acquia is notified within minutes of an AWS outage: This enables us not only to ride out minor disruptions within AWS without our customers, or their site visitors, being aware of it but also to recover quickly from all but the most extreme AWS region-wide outages. We have the highest level Service-level-Agreement AWS offers, and we're able to extend the benefits of that relationship—such as priority response and notification of outages—to our entire customer base.

Success You Can Build on

Whether your site is small, or you are a Fortune 500 organization serving billions of pageviews monthly, across hundreds of sites; Acquia Cloud has the ability to scale with your organization as your needs change. The combination of a great platform, a world-class support team, and technical tools that enable and support innovation and agility make Acquia the world's premiere open cloud platform.

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