

CDW and Merit Aluminum

Leveraging CDW Managed Services for AWS helps Merit Aluminum keep their focus on innovation



Customer Overview

Founded in 1974 and led by three generations of the Rapport family, Merit Aluminum focusing on innovation, is recognized as a leader in the aluminum extrusion industry. The company makes it its mission to "do what others believe is impossible." With their forward-looking approach, Merit has evolved into the most innovative finishing extruder on the West Coast.

The Challenge

Organizations are increasingly turning to cloud-based services and hybrid infrastructure models to drive innovation and increase speed to market. These advantages often come with additional management complexities. This rapid pace may place an additional burden on IT coworkers as they struggle to keep up with the evolving cloud design patterns.

To drive innovation, Merit Aluminum adopted AWS in 2018 and leverage CDW Managed Services for AWS (Basic). CDW Basic Managed Services for AWS included a CDW LaunchPad which is a hands-on working session to get Merit started with the basics like setting up their environment and alerts, tagging resources, and a tutorial on the core features of the service: The Billing, Budget, Security, and Capacity Advisors.

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| Security and Capacity Advisor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address common security concerns Provide right-size recommendations for your compute and storage | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Budget Advisor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consumption tracking by department Auto-generating reports | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Billing Advisor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graphical views of your spend Custom alerts | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

As demand for the AWS benefits increased and Merit identified innovative ways to leverage AWS services, Merit's IT team was stretched thin. There were more services to manage and new cloud design patterns that took them outside their core skill set.

The Solution

To address the challenges they faced, Merit opted to enroll in the Premium tier of CDW's Amplified™ Managed Service for Cloud. After the LaunchPad onboarding process, they began to realize the benefits associated with working closely with an AWS Consulting Partner with the status of Managed Service Provider. They were able to work on issues and projects associated with their core business, secure in the knowledge that CDW is ensuring the day-to-day functionality of their AWS cloud.

Merit has enjoyed numerous benefits associated with the "Engineer on Demand" option, working with CDW engineering to help strategize, plan and execute several important initiatives including:

- Enabling Route 53 so Merit could manage the Domain Name Server entries in their Virtual Private Cloud
- Providing log integration and monitoring of AWS Autoscaling Groups to meet Merit's disaster recovery objectives
- Installation of Volume Shadow Services (VSS) agent on AWS EC2 instances
- Leveraging AWS Access Control Policies to restrict AWS WorkSpaces users to desired IP CIDR address blocks
- Installed of AWS NAT Gateways to enforce ensure private resources remained in accessible from outside parties

The Benefits

As with all CDW's Managed Service customers, Merit has received top tier care from a dedicated team of engineers who not only know AWS, but every other system and application that they rely on in order to get the work done. The advantage of having proactive monitoring, 24x7x365 technical support as well as an assigned Technical Account Manager on their team has freed Merit up to do what they do best.

