

IKOULA

Simplifies the Management of Large-Scale Cloud Infrastructure with CloudStack and XCP-ng



Ikoula - The Cloud Leader and Innovator in France

IKOULA is a French company, specialist in web hosting, dedicated servers and cloud computing provider founded in 1998. They own 2 Data Centers in France (Reims and Eppes) and two independent business units in Netherlands and Spain. Their solution CloudIKOULAONE is available in 3 continents (Europe, Asia and the USA) and is orchestrated by CloudStack.

Ikoula's Cloud Infrastructure

- 100+ hosts
- 8 different zones
- 6600+ customers
- Raid 60 Data storage
- Hyper-V, XCP-ng, Xen server and VMware
- CloudStack
- NFS storage
- Dell and Supermicro Hardware



A Desire to Grow as a Company and Offer Innovative Services

For the management of their new cloud environment, Ikoula decided to choose the open-source way. They did a thorough PoC of the two major open-source cloud management platforms on the market - CloudStack and OpenStack but found CloudStack as an easier to understand, install and use and more mature product at that time. In addition to their own PoC, Ikoula also got excellent references from the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), which was already a CloudStack user.

Ikoula is now among the most innovative cloud and managed services providers in Europe, with an extensive portfolio of cloud solutions. A large number of customers use their CloudStack-orchestrated infrastructure to deploy memory-oriented and storage-oriented VMs or Kubernetes clusters.

Going the Open-Source Way

The cloud and hosting market is one of the most competitive in the tech industry. Companies need to constantly innovate, be creative, offer exceptional service quality and support while keeping a competitive price. Choosing an open-source technology stack is a strategic decision taken by Ikoula. In addition to CloudStack, they have also added XCP-ng - a high-performance enterprise-level virtualisation platform.

“It is essential for us as a hosting company to know exactly what is running on our servers. This is a decisive advantage in terms of security. We decided to go with open-source solutions, as they deliver the reliability and flexibility we need. When it comes to debugging issues, we can quickly look in the code and fix it or ask the community for help on the error. CloudStack and XCP-ng have an active and growing community and constantly evolving products, which is a huge benefit.

Joaquim Dos Santos
R&D Director at Ikoula

CloudStack and XCP-ng also give a financial advantage to Ikoula, which is extremely important in their market segment. According to their team, operating XCP-ng and CloudStack costs way lower than other solutions. In addition, the fact that they have competent people in these technologies inside their company is also a big plus in terms of management.

“It is not the same with other products, for which when it comes to specific problems you need to rely on support. This can be a problem if the partner you have chosen to support the technology is not competent enough in the area. So it is crucial what technology and which partners you will choose.”





CloudStack – A Turnkey Solution for Cloud and Hosting Providers

“When choosing a cloud orchestrator, you need to think about installation, maintenance and upgrades. If these take more than creating compute planes and deploying VMs, then the product is really missing the point. CloudStack is not missing this point!”

According to Ikoula, the process must go way over the installation and maintenance when assessing an orchestrator. This is because you would like to have a product to test and not a product to install. CloudStack is mature a lot in this area, and after conducting a PoC of it, Ikoula was confident that the solution would behave as expected in production. They did a fine-tuning in terms of security, implemented their first zones, and now operate three zones in Amsterdam, Miami, and Singapore.

“The evaluation process of CloudStack was easy. The solution is well-documented, and you can start easily with it. We highly value that it is an Apache Project. When choosing a cloud orchestration tool, you need to know which authorities are governing the project and who can help you in case of need. This shows a lot of the future of the project.”

At this stage, Ikoula manages a large CloudStack environment with 100+ hosts in 8 different zones and 6600+ customers using it. They can make live updates and upgrades of the system without any service interruptions for the end-users. Among the most valuable CloudStack features for them are the multi-tenancy of the solution, its scalability and power to manage hundreds of hosts and thousands of VMs easily

“As a hosting company, we have one infrastructure, and we share it between customers and products. CloudStack gives an option to our customers to also create groups of resources that are segregated inside the company. From a users and developers perspective, it is a great product.”

CloudStack proved to be a turnkey solution for the needs of Ikoula for close to a decade. It grows with them, provides the right set of features and delivers on its promise to help them operate future-proof cloud infrastructure.

About IKOULA

Pioneer of the French Cloud since 1998, IKOULA has its own Datacenters in France, as well as two subsidiaries, in Spain and in the Netherlands. Because people are part of its DNA, IKOULA maintains a close relationship with its customers, and provides them with teams of experts available 24/7, to advise and support them in their activities. IKOULA's teams are also multilingual, in order to respond to the internationalization issues of all of its customers, located in more than 60 countries on 4 continents. Since September 2021, IKOULA has joined of the SEWAN Group.



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About XCP-ng

XCP-ng virtualization platform is a Xen Project incubation project hosted in the Linux Foundation. XCP-ng aims to be the bridge between the users community and the developers and is the default entry point for any user.

Vates is the main company that supports the development of XCP-ng. They provide professional service to assure that businesses get the most out of the solution.

Based on XenServer, XCP-ng is the result of massive cooperation between individuals and companies, to deliver a product without limits. No restrictions on features and every bit available on GitHub!



www.xcp-ng.com