CloudSphere

Software as a Service (SaaS) Subscription and Recurring Billing Leader Brings Cloud Spending and Access Sprawl Under Control with CloudSphere Cloud Governance Platform

Identity Governance Sheds Light on Access Permissions to Critical Assets to Simplify Compliance Audits and Improve Security Posture

HIGHLIGHTS

With CloudSphere, coordinating cloud spend across different departments and geographies is now as simple as looking at the CloudSphere cloud spending dashboard.

Preparing for industry compliance audits is also much easier, as CloudSphere's Cloud Governance Platform allows multi-cloud policy consistency for access privileges to key cloud assets.

THE PROBLEM

A Texas-based leader in the recurring billing automation market was having difficulty with visibility and control in the public cloud. As a SaaS company, their product runs in the cloud, and cloud spending comprises a significant portion of the company's expenses. While the production platform was tightly monitored, they started to see surprise bills coming from unmanaged sales proof-of-concept environments as well as larger than expected development and QA spending. With an increasing focus on reducing their unpredictable cloud spend, they knew they would need to improve governance and visibility to control costs. They were looking for a simple user experience and a dashboard that would provide visibility into how each department, project, and individual in the company was spending money in the cloud.

The company operates in several regulated markets and is subject to a number of compliance audits. Understanding which employees had access to critical assets both on-premises and in the public cloud became a very time-consuming project that was occupying key development resources for weeks at a time. Preparing for an audit is a challenging proposition even when company IT resources are located solely on-premises. The historical lack of cloud governance and visibility had led to access sprawl, with too many employees and contractors holding access privileges to key IT resources. With the bulk of their resources now running in the public cloud, audit preparations became particularly onerous.

THE SOLUTION

Coordinating cloud spend across different departments and different geographies is now as simple as looking at the CloudSphere cloud spending dashboard. Budget alerts and charts show actual spend versus expected cloud spend in a simple chart that identifies which departments and projects are on a path that will have them exceeding their budgets. With early notification, the company can now take action before they're hit with a surprise bill. Idle resources are quickly identified and shut down, while cost optimization functions help simplify the balance of buying the right number of reserved instances and savings plans, without overcommitting their cloud spend.

Preparing for industry compliance audits is also much easier, as CloudSphere's Cloud Governance Platform allows multi-cloud policy consistency for access privileges to key cloud assets. The identity governance maps provide a clear graphical representation that immediately shows which employees and contractors have access to important resources in the cloud and on-premises. The CloudSphere Platform is now alerting them in real time to any issues that may need attention. Rather than scrambling to identify and fix issues just before the audit, the company now identifies and remediates potential problems as they come up, eliminating a major pain point for the regulated side of the business.

NEXT STEPS

The company is looking to expand their use of CloudSphere's security and compliance capabilities by implementing a program to monitor public cloud security posture. They are starting with a straight-forward monitoring dashboard that identities policy violations and raises alerts with an integrated ITSM tool to help ensure quick follow up for high risk items.

"We had managed to get some level of visibility into our cloud costs with the free tools from the public cloud providers, but when different groups in the organization started using more than one public cloud, we knew we needed a purpose-built tool for cloud governance.

CloudSphere provides us the fine-grained visibility by department, project, and individual that we need to operate our business and has dramatically simplified our audit process."

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