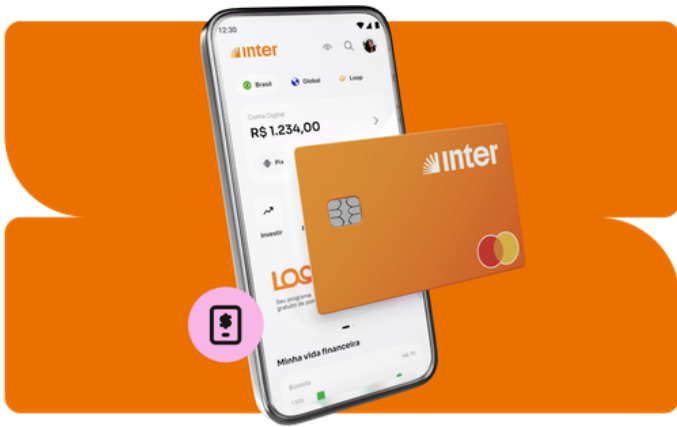


Inter and RealCloud: Efficiency and Innovation with FinOps Practices



Inter

Founded in the 1980s as a financial services company, Inter has evolved into a full-featured super app, listed on Nasdaq, and became the first fully free digital bank in Brazil. Today, Inter offers both financial and non-financial services to over 36 million customers, with the goal of reaching 60 million by 2027. This accelerated growth trajectory reinforces its position as a benchmark in innovation and digital transformation.



Challenges with Cloud Expansion

Inter's cloud migration journey began in 2018, the same year the company reached 1 million customers. However, rapid growth required an enhanced approach to cost optimization and scalability. Key challenges included the need to monitor and optimize the performance of Kubernetes clusters (EKS), efficiently manage over 61 clusters and complex workloads, and implement FinOps practices to optimize cloud spending without compromising innovation. With continued growth, it became essential to adopt a cloud operating model that would enable automation, governance, and significant cost savings.

The Partnership with RealCloud

To address these challenges, Inter established a strategic partnership with RealCloud, leveraging the Flexera Spot solution to optimize costs and gain greater control over cloud resources. This partnership was further strengthened by the adoption of best practices through RealCloud's Kubernetes Optimization and Automation approach, designed to simplify and enhance operations in containerized environments. This integrated approach enables centralized management and automation of critical tasks such as dynamic scaling and efficient resource allocation, boosting workload performance and predictability.

Technical Implementation and Benefits

According to Sandinilson Passos, Cloud Specialist responsible for implementing the solution at Inter, the adoption process followed a structured strategy that began with impact validation in a development environment, the creation of blueprints for automated provisioning using Terraform, and the progressive migration of clusters. Out of a total of 61 clusters, 49 have already been migrated, 18 of which are production clusters. This transition brought several operational benefits, including reduced cluster update time due to automation and simplified workload management.

With the Kubernetes Optimization and Automation approach, Inter's team also gained access to actionable cost optimization insights and intelligent real-time resource distribution recommendations, improving efficiency and ensuring greater service availability during peak times. This optimized toolset empowered the DevOps team to focus more on innovation-driven projects by reducing repetitive manual tasks and enhancing scalability in a secure and efficient manner.

Results Achieved

The partnership led to a reduction of over 72% in On-demand computing costs in production environments through the use of Spot Instances, targeting compute capacity that exceeds the coverage of savings plans. The Flexera Spot platform automated critical processes, such as instance rollouts during cluster updates, significantly reducing time and manual effort. The savings achieved allowed Inter to reinvest in other initiatives, such as expanding services within the Super App.

According to Thamisa da Hora, FinOps Practitioner on Inter's IT Economics team, FinOps is not just about cutting costs, it's about optimizing and extracting the maximum value from the cloud.

With RealCloud's partnership, Inter was able to turn this vision into reality, with efficiency and scalability.

“RealCloud's support was exceptional, providing close guidance and valuable insights that helped us implement the solution in a secure and efficient way.”

— Sandinilson Passos, Cloud Specialist at Inter.

Conclusion

The partnership between Inter and RealCloud exemplifies how the combination of advanced technology and a strategic approach can transform growth challenges into opportunities for innovation. With robust FinOps practices and efficient resource management, Inter strengthens its position as a leader in the digital financial sector.

Challenges Overcome

Spreading a FinOps culture within a robust and diverse IT structure required dedicated efforts to promote shared responsibility and alignment across all teams. The strategy of prioritizing less critical workloads before moving into production environments ensured a smooth and disruption-free transition.

Next Steps

Inter plans to complete the migration of all EKS clusters to Spot Instances and focus on rightsizing strategies to ensure optimal resource allocation per microservice. Additionally, the company intends to continue investing in its partnership with RealCloud to further enhance the governance and performance of its infrastructure.



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About RealCloud

RealCloud is a leader in cloud management and optimization solutions in Latin America, helping companies achieve operational efficiency through cost reduction and improved performance. With customers such as VTEX, iFood, and INTER, RealCloud has already helped save more than USD 440 million in cloud spending. Learn more at: realcloud.ai



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