



Soccer Academy Alliance
Canada delivers agility for
over 20,000 players



Problem Statement

Soccer Academy Alliance Canada (SAAC) is a non-profit company operating in a joint initiative with Ontario Soccer to provide a FIFA standards-based organized sports league for the development of world-class youth soccer players In Ontario and other parts of Canada.

When Academy Soccer partnered with Ontario Soccer, league membership went from just over 3,000 players to over 20,000 players (from 16 separate academies to 43). As a result of this rapid growth, Academy Soccer's website exceeded its hosting capacity and resulted in frequent complaints about slow performance negatively impacting the user experience. With new signups for the upcoming season, just around the corner, the SAAC needed to act fast. SAAC engaged Softchoice to implement the foundational configuration of the AWS tenant - securely - and develop a plan to quickly move their existing homegrown website to AWS, to scale with the growing demand and to provide a better user experience for its members.

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Solution

For Phase 1, Softchoice created the AWS cloud foundation, securely provisioning access to it by leveraging identity management methods, along with setup & deployment of AWS services. Softchoice then configured the security options for a subset of Amazon Web Services with an emphasis on foundational, testable and architecture agnostic settings. Phase 2 involved the migration of SAAC's website data into the new AWS cloud environment, along with testing and knowledge-sharing.

Upon project completion, Soccer Academy Alliance Canada was able to leverage:

- A multi-AZ production environment, consisting of a VPC
- Controlled access to your cloud infrastructure using enterprise-grade access management (IAM)
- Virtual isolation between SAAC data and other AWS clients
- Native AWS monitoring and logging capabilities
- A live website hosted on 2 new virtual servers inside a hardened Amazon VPC environment
- Automation and storage of database snapshots and administrative access to hosting infrastructure
- A single email client
- Knowledge transfer on best practices
- A forecast of ongoing AWS consumption costs for budget planning

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Outcome(s)

Moving to the AWS cloud provided Soccer Academy Alliance Canada the agility necessary to service a much larger group of players, coaches, and academies and the ability to immediately provide services to new academies who come under the SAAC League. It also provided a means for a very cost-effective way to move their existing web operations to a scalable and secure platform – with minimal refactoring required, ensuring that the IT team could quickly learn the new AWS environment.

SAAC gleaned insights into how AWS as a whole work, with various services and support mechanisms available to the platform as well as when partnering with the right AWS consulting partner – like Softchoice – great things can be achieved in a very short timeline.

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About Softchoice

Softchoice is one of the largest IT solution and managed services companies in North America. We help organizations transform their business by embracing a secure Hybrid IT strategy and driving technology adoption with their end users. This makes their business more agile and responsive to customer needs, and makes their employees more productive and happier too.

The logo for softchoice, featuring the word "softchoice" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font. A stylized, white, handwritten-style flourish or symbol is positioned above the letter "i".