



Opinion:

Why Your Maximo Team Shouldn't Manage OpenShift — And What to Do Instead

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Expecting a Maximo team to become OpenShift experts can be a challenging approach. Specialised tools require specialised expertise and investing in a dedicated OpenShift team ensures both technologies deliver their full value without compromise. This is where a Managed Services Provider (MSP) can fill the gap.

IBM Maximo and Red Hat OpenShift are both powerful enterprise solutions, but they serve very different purposes. Maximo is a leading enterprise asset management (EAM) system, while OpenShift is a Kubernetes-based container orchestration platform. While it might seem cost-effective to train your existing Maximo team to handle OpenShift, this approach can introduce inefficiencies and risks. Instead, organisations should invest in a dedicated OpenShift team to maximise the benefits of both technologies.

THE COMPLEXITY OF OPENSHIFT

OpenShift is a sophisticated, enterprise-grade container orchestration solution that requires deep expertise in Kubernetes, CI/CD pipelines, security, networking, and automation. Managing an OpenShift environment requires an in-depth understanding of:



Containerised applications and how they interact within OpenShift



Networking and security policies within a cluster



Cluster scaling and performance tuning



CI/CD pipelines and DevOps integration



Monitoring and troubleshooting in a microservices environment

Expecting Maximo specialists, who are experts in asset management but not in container orchestration, to master these areas can lead to operational inefficiencies and costly mistakes.

THE RISK OF DIVIDED FOCUS

Maximo teams have their own set of responsibilities, including ensuring Maximo system availability and performance, managing Maximo configurations, integrations, and workflows, handling upgrades, patches, and compliance requirements, and supporting end-users and business processes. Adding OpenShift responsibilities to a Maximo team dilutes their focus and could lead to decreased performance in both areas. Instead of excelling in asset management, they may struggle with OpenShift complexities, leading to service disruptions, security vulnerabilities, and operational inefficiencies.

THE BENEFITS OF A DEDICATED OPENSHIFT TEAM

A specialised OpenShift team brings multiple advantages:

1

Expertise and Efficiency

A dedicated team with OpenShift certifications and experience ensures that best practices are followed, reducing downtime and optimising performance.

2

Proactive Monitoring and Security

Containerised environments require proactive monitoring, patching, and security updates. A specialised team can focus on these tasks without distraction.

3

Improved Automation and DevOps Integration

A dedicated OpenShift team can streamline CI/CD pipelines, automate deployments, and improve collaboration with development teams.

4

Better Support for Maximo

By keeping OpenShift responsibilities separate, the Maximo team can focus on asset management and improving business processes, leading to better end-user experiences.

A MANAGED SERVICES PROVIDER CAN FILL THIS GAP

Instead of building an in-house OpenShift team, organisations should consider leveraging a Managed Services Provider (MSP) to handle their OpenShift infrastructure. An MSP brings a wealth of experience, best practices, and specialised expertise, ensuring that OpenShift environments are optimised, secure, and highly available.

As a Managed Service Provider, Arcondis has expertise in both OpenShift and Maximo. This approach reduces the burden of hiring, training, and retaining in-house experts, allowing organisations to focus on their core business objectives. Additionally, Arcondis provides 24/7 monitoring, proactive maintenance, scalable solutions, and automated testing, making them a cost-effective and reliable choice.

CONCLUSION

While cross-training your Maximo team to handle OpenShift might seem like a cost-saving measure, it introduces significant risks and inefficiencies. A dedicated OpenShift team ensures that both platforms are managed effectively, allowing your organisation to fully leverage the power of OpenShift while maintaining the reliability and performance of Maximo. Investing in specialised expertise ultimately leads to better

security, scalability, and operational excellence. Contact me if you would like to find out more about using a Managed Services Provider to maximise the benefits of OpenShift.

About the author



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Christopher Westfall has over 20 years of experience with Maximo and asset management best practices in a variety of industries, including 10 years in consulting and software at IBM working with most of IBM's largest clients and the enormous IBM business partner ecosystem.

About Arcondis

Arcondis is a global professional services company exclusively focused on the life sciences and healthcare sector. Owned by a Foundation and committed to healthcare improvement, we accelerate value creation for our clients in R&D, Manufacturing & Supply Chain, Marketing, Sales & Services, to ultimately benefit patients.

Our solutions and services include Digitalisation, Data, IT & Infrastructure; Product Lifecycle Management; Industry Compliance & Managed Services and People & Culture. As an independent solutions and Managed Service provider, we have the flexibility to prioritise our clients' best interests without being constrained by exclusive partnerships. We follow an outcomes-based approach – from strategy to hands-on delivery and beyond.

With a well-established reputation built over two decades, we have earned the trust of leading companies in Pharma, Med-Tech, Healthcare and Start-ups. Headquartered in Switzerland, we employ more than 250 specialists and professionals, with offices in North America, Europe and APAC.

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