

AWS Partner Story: Ikon Integration's Rapid Serverless Development with Stackery



Executive Summary

Ikon Integration's team of IT experts is dedicated to ensuring their enterprise clients are able to seamlessly adopt cloud-based technology in a secure and cost-effective manner. Ikon's clients appreciate their focus on compliance with regulatory standards.

When Ikon began developing more custom solutions for clients, their software team decided to take advantage of the rapid, scalable innovation made possible by serverless development. They discovered the need for a tool that would lessen the amount of time spent writing applications from scratch. After adopting Stackery, the team discovered a new serverless workflow that allowed them to focus on the business value of serverless applications instead the complexity of building them.

Ikon's Custom Approach

Ikon Integration is supported by a team of consultants who work to ensure that businesses can adopt cloud-based IT in a precise, governed, secure, and cost-effective manner. With their primary foci being cloud migration and cloud storage /disaster recovery, it is of utmost importance that their developers utilize the leanest and most modern software solutions to deliver bespoke cloud solutions.

The Challenge of Change

Just as they do for clients, Ikon is continuously monitoring their software development workflow for areas of improvement. With this mindset, their team uncovered a need for further cloud expertise within the branch of their organization that handles legacy and on-premises server management.

Ikon was also encountering more customer-specific monitoring needs. The combination of internal and external demands for flexible, scalable, and repeatable applications led Ikon to explore the serverless approach.

However, the developers tasked with utilizing more serverless software found that they had to use labor-intensive processes that required more manual work than they could manage. While acutely aware of the necessity of serverless architecture for customers, Ikon was challenged by the concept of needing to learn a new approach to development from scratch.

An AWS Heritage

As the team set off on their serverless journey, they looked to Amazon Web Services' expansive library of tools that had worked so well for their customers in the past. This predilection for using AWS to back up their serverless efforts was largely based off of the success they had found with AWS CloudFormation previously. The ease of provisioning infrastructure resources in their customers' cloud environments with AWS CloudFormation prompted Ikon to utilize AWS Lambda and AWS Serverless Application Model (AWS SAM) for their journey to successful serverless development.

Writing Functions, Not YAML

When Ikon's Cloud Solutions Architect, Rescio Souza, attended AWS re:Invent in 2018, he attended a talk centered around the importance of breaking the monolith with serverless.

About Ikon Integration



Ikon Integration's team of IT experts ensure that enterprise clients are able to seamlessly adopt cloudbased technology in a secure and cost-effective manner while remaining in compliance with regulatory standards. With one of their primary platforms being Amazon Web Services (AWS), Ikon utilizes the most cutting-edge solutions to keep their customers abreast of industry innovations. Ikon Integration is a certified AWS Consulting Partner which gives them the credentials to help customers migrate to the cloud, prioritize cloud storage and disaster recovery, and execute on their cloud transformation goals with minimal interruptions.



“My takeaway was that apps can easily become much more complex than the problem they are actually trying to solve, which just didn’t make sense for us,” says Rescio. “At the time, we were in talks with a client who wanted some custom development done so we were exploring serverless anyway.” He was inspired to find a tool to make breaking the monolith easier for his consultants and clients.

When Souza exited the talk, he passed by Stackery’s booth in the expo hall and was immediately taken by their “write functions, not YAML” signage.

His team began using Stackery soon after getting a demo from their VP of Engineering, Sam Goldstein.

Speed and Consistency

With Stackery’s unique visual configuration of infrastructure resources, Ikon was instantly able to build out the AWS resources that compose their app in just minutes. This was an indispensable benefit for a team that lacked familiarity with building larger application deployments using AWS. By allowing engineers to develop locally against AWS’ cloudside resources, Stackery eased the steepness of getting started with serverless.

Stackery’s intuitive interface provided speed and consistency for Ikon’s developers, allowing them to bypass the laborious and cumbersome tasks that would otherwise make application deployment take hours.

Ikon’s Results with Stackery

Stackery has helped Ikon produce two single-page applications with an Amazon DynamoDB back-end using AWS Lambda for several clients. Furthermore, Stackery has made it possible for them to hand customers a functioning and easily maintainable product instead of a confusing template within a silo.

But the team cites much more than a serverless development output as the primary benefit of Stackery:

“Stackery is a fantastic tool that helps you get started with serverless and leverage best practices and multiple services from AWS on day one,” says Souza. “Its solutions help you avoid repetitive work so you can focus on what you want to do: make applications and do serverless right the first time.”

When asked about the time-saving benefits of Stackery, Ikon reports having saved over three weeks worth of development time, allowing for a major shift in focus towards the business logic of their new custom serverless solutions. Their customers are able to walk away with a production-grade application that doesn’t require esoteric knowledge to manage themselves.



About Stackery

Stackery was founded by former New Relic and GitHub leaders to enable software developers and operations teams to quickly and confidently compose, deploy, and manage applications built on managed cloud services. The company was named a “2019 Company To Watch” by SDTimes, is an Amazon Advanced Technology Partner, and is backed by Hummer Winblad Ventures and Voyager Capital. Learn more at [Stackery.io](https://stackery.io) or on Twitter at [@stackeryio](https://twitter.com/stackeryio)