



Atom bank

How Digitalis supports Atom Bank in running its core banking platform

After Atom Bank, the UK's first app-based bank, moved its on-premises infrastructure to the cloud, it experienced some specific challenges with its distributed streaming platform and its relational database management system. Both are very important to Atom's core banking platform. Simon Dawson, Head of DevOps, explains how Digitalis has been supporting Atom Bank.

Apache Kafka and PostgreSQL are critical parts of Atom's Data Architecture. *"When configuring those solutions, we found out we could do with some additional capacity and expertise, that was not readily available within Atom",* says Dawson. *"We therefore sent out a Request for Proposal. Digitalis was one of the parties that replied. Whilst meeting with them, we quickly realised they possess a lot of knowledge and would definitely be able to help us out."*

Part of the team

Digitalis is assisting Atom Bank in multiple ways: carrying out development and implementing changes, but also working with the performance engineering team and ensuring that tasks are carried out diligently. Dawson: *"We are quite lean in terms of in-house technical people. We have gotten used to working with different external suppliers as a result, but the team at Digitalis are something else. It's almost as if they are part of the Atom team."*

Which was especially convenient when Atom Bank was looking for assistance on other fronts as well. *"As it turned out, one of our DevOps Agile sprint teams could use extra capacity",* says Dawson. *"We therefore decided to reach out to Digitalis and ask for their help with that as well. They essentially embedded three of their engineers in our sprint team."* Among other tasks, they took care of automating Atom's mobile app authentication, to run on Google Kubernetes Engine. Dawson: *"Which is quite unique, because the 3rd party provider have only just containerised their application to run on Kubernetes. The work Digitalis did is really bleeding edge."*

Identifying new opportunities

Dawson is very happy about the cooperation. *"Digitalis has already identified new opportunities for us, proposing to take care of those as part of their managed services agreement with us."* He stresses, however, that all this technical knowhow alone would not have amounted to anything if Digitalis weren't easy to work with it. *"But cooperating with them has felt more like a partnership than a client/vendor relationship. They get our culture and provided us with a deep level of technical expertise, coupled with a great attitude and desire to go the extra mile. I cannot imagine not working with them."*

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