dbi-services, SQL Server Containers and Database Cloning

Dbi-services is a leading IT consultancy in Switzerland and central Europe focused on infrastructure and data platforms. Dbi-services offers a popular Database Management Kit (DMK) for management of Oracle, SQL Server, and open source data environments, which support all editions of SQL Server 2008 onward. Windocks SQL Server containers and database cloning was selected for ongoing maintenance and enhancement of DMK, as part of an Azure DevOps pipeline.

Windocks SQL Server containers

DMK supports the SQL Server family including all editions of SQL Server on Windows, and new releases on Linux. As a Gold Microsoft partner, Dbi-services evaluated use of Microsoft’s Windows SQL Server containers, but quickly recognized a number of limitations.

In late 2017 Microsoft’s SQL Server division shifted focus to Linux containers, and existing Windows images are limited to SQL Server 2016/2017, which were last updated in early 2018. These images average over 10 GB, and must be rebuilt following Windows updates, and lack support for SQL Server database cloning. Microsoft’s SQL Server containers also lack support for Windows authentication, and each container requires a minimum 4 vCPU core license.

Windocks, in contrast, supports all Windows SQL Server editions by cloning a locally installed instance. This approach maintains support for Windows Auth and SQL Server namespace isolation, with resilient container support of Windows updates. Windocks also includes database cloning with Virtual Hard Drives (VHDs) or enterprise storage arrays, for delivery of secure TB class environments in seconds. As a port of Docker’s open source project to Windows, Windocks supports restful API integration with Azure DevOps pipelines.

Simple and scalable, single VM for Azure DevOps

A single VM is simple to maintain, and more economical than working with multiple virtual machines. The VM uses only 200 GB of storage to support up to 20 simultaneous 100 GB databases, for a 90% net savings in storage. The combination of containers with cloned databases is fast, with environments provisioned in seconds, compared to the time and cost of provisioning VMs and database copies.

As a leading consultancy dbi-services also benefits by being able to engage and deliver SQL Server modernization for clients. The Windocks solution is a natural complement to SQL Azure database environments, and is also equally adept at integrating with OpenShift, Cloud Foundry, and other Linux platforms.

Azure DevOps with SQL Server containers

Dbi-services selection of Windocks for Azure DevOps support of the DMK pipeline reflects the benefits delivered by Windocks, including full support for the Windows SQL Server product family, combined with database cloning, for a secure solution that is both easy to implement and that integrates with existing enterprise infrastructure and processes.

Dbi-services DevOps strategy aligns with industry trends toward Docker containers, and provides a smooth migration to SQL Server 2017 or 2019 on Linux. If you’re interested to explore the use of SQL Server containers with database cloning, download a free Community Edition at https://www.windocks.com/community-docker-windows

About Windocks

Windocks combines Docker Windows containers with SQL Server database cloning, for a modern, open data delivery solution. Enterprises modernize application development, testing, reporting and BI with existing licenses and infrastructure, at a fraction the cost of alternatives.

For additional information, visit www.windocks.com, or contact Windocks at info@windocks.com