cloudmoyo™

Partner of choice for
modernization of railroads

Short line railroad charging new territories through digital innovation with cloud-based operational and safety testing
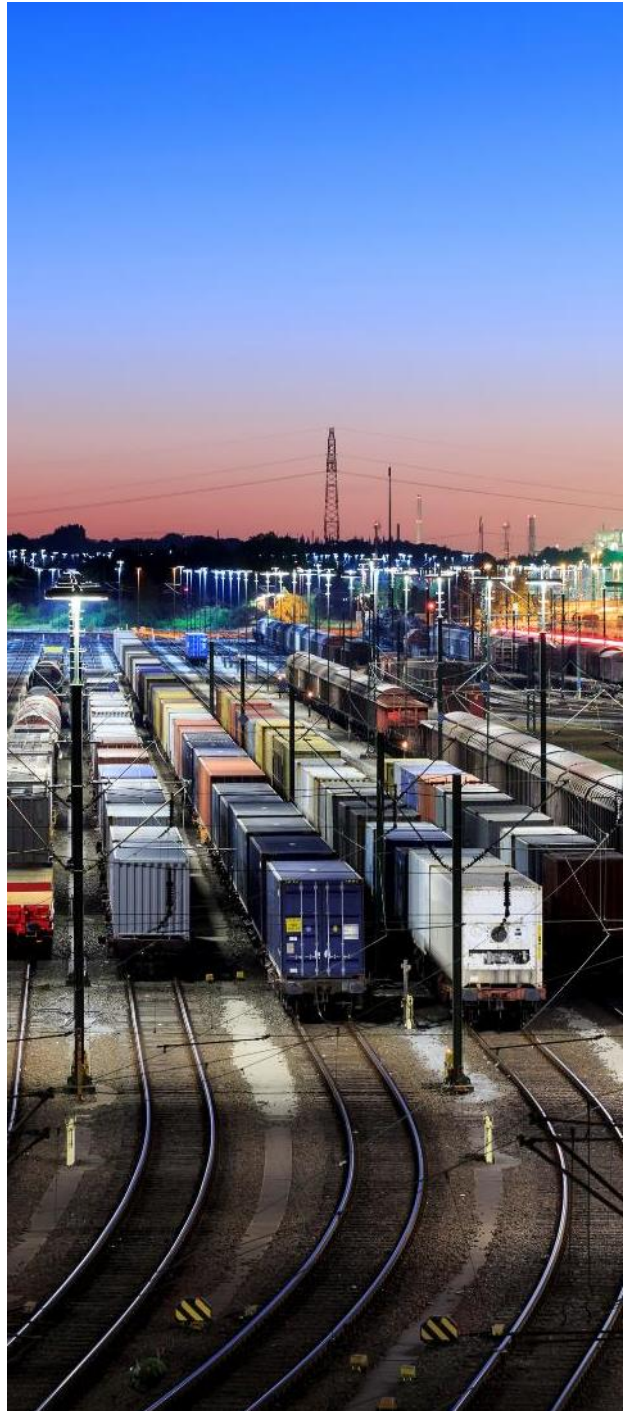
Introduction

For the Class III railroads today striving to provide increased service to their customers, operate more efficiently while offering cost-effective transportation, and meet the critical need to provide the first and last mile of service, an entrepreneurial spirit and drive is pervasive. The push to compete for business highlights the need to continually adopt new tools that will drive increased efficiencies.

For one particular short line railroad operating outside of the central U.S., a deeply engrained commitment to leveraging and rolling out the latest technologies is driving digital transformation.

The short line, which serves over 80 industrial customers and provides interchange services to more than 5 Class I railroads, is demonstrating a commitment to its people and processes that makes digital innovation integral to their roadmap.

It's this approach that has empowered the railroad to lead the way for Class III railroads who are adopting cutting-edge technology to support service excellence, cost-effective transportation, and build on their already established safety records.

Today, this short lines railroad deals with 6 Class I railroads, operating a switching facility that is the largest in the region (30,000 cars pass through the facility each month). Given the complexity of operating a switching yard and providing storage to Class Is, it has been imperative that the railroad ensures safe, compliant operations across their organization.

That being said, it has faced several challenges when it came to operational and field testing, a component that is critical to ensuring safe operations. Some of the challenges the railroad was facing include:

Inflexible system

As this company's business grows, there was an increasing need for flexibility in responding to regulatory changes. But it was hard to implement new safety measures in a streamlined, timely, and efficient manner given that there were no importation of rules libraries with the system the railroad was using. This made it difficult to roll out new test programs.

Time-consuming and unproductive

Manual, paper-based testing stretched out the testing process, and testers would have to go to a data entry system later to input test results and observations. Testers didn't have the benefit of using mobile devices for testing in the field, for real time test execution and submission of test results.

Lack of visibility into data

The system didn't work with other business systems that the railroad used, and wasn't able to correlate testing data. As a result, testing was reactive; there wasn't a way to plan ops testing progressively.

Limited reporting

The railroad was continuously running into reporting limitations. As a result, senior management weren't able to pull the reports they wanted, the railroad wasn't able to track the success of their testing programs, and there wasn't sufficient visibility into the data needed to scale operational efficiencies and increase productivity while also supporting safety measures.

It was at this junction that the short line partnered with CloudMoyo in their digitalization journey, taking critical steps towards reduced safety risks and more proactive testing with the deployment of the CloudMoyo Operational Testing System (OTS). A next-generation, cloud-based product, OTS streamlines the testing process from test plan creation to execution in the field and FRA and compliance reporting.

With the vision to make this railroad the most safety-focused and innovative railroad among its peers, CloudMoyo deployed OTS across all of its operations, including their major switching facility in Madison, Illinois, and their railroad routes through St. Louis and Madison and St. Clair counties in Illinois. CloudMoyo configured 2 test roles for the railroad, and today 16 testers are leveraging the system to conduct efficient, compliant testing for the railroad's approximately 148 employees that are undergoing operational testing., with a total of 274 employees active users in the system.

Critical OTS capabilities and benefits driving safety gains for our customer

Imported rulebooks

With direct importation of rules libraries into OTS—including GCOR, MOW, SSI, Haz-Mat, Train Ride and Efficiencies—our customer can quickly roll out new test execution programs, and respond agilely to changes in regulatory requirements. Testing is now rules-based and safety measures testing on new rules are agilely deployed.

Configurable test plans

One significant game-changer for our customer when it comes to operational testing is streamlined test plan creation. From the start, minimal data entry is required. Instead, test plans are prepopulated each month, while an admin can go in and change the rules that are being tested on, and then quickly roll out the plan across the organization. Admin can create configurable master test plans based on insights, trends, and patterns that have been identified to ensure that this railroad is empowered to respond to safety opportunities.

Guaranteed, randomized drug and alcohol testing

In order to support compliance with the FRA's minimum annual random drug and alcohol testing rates for covered employees and maintenance of way workers, CloudMoyo built out a feature in OTS that will guarantee randomized test quotas for our customer. Drug and alcohol testing relations officers are able to input the number of employees they need to test, and OTS will generate a random number of employees in that same amount.

Mobile accessibility for test execution

The customer's 30-35 testers are now out in the field conducting tests using mobile devices issued to them. Test results and observations are conducted through a guided user interface, and are then submitted on these same devices, which speeds up the testing process and reduces the chance of manual error.

System integration

A key capability of OTS is integration with business systems like ERP as well as Oracle HCM and Microsoft Active Directory File Server to maintain test records, aggregate crew data, and generate customized reports. Partnering with CloudMoyo, our customer has taken this approach a step further and are building out a digital crew management system and qualifications tracking system that will integrate with OTS to streamline workforce management from scheduling to testing and qualification tracking.

Customized dashboards

The railroad is leveraging OTS' customized dashboards to get a more in-depth picture of the progress and status of operational testing and identify what rules need to be tested on. These dashboards provide increased visibility into KPIs such as testing data, program performance, and testing success and failure rates.

Quick FRA and compliance reporting

Compliance reporting is now leaps and bounds ahead of what our customer was able to pull in the past. With OTS, the railroad can now pull scorecard reports that show how many tests each tester has conducted and the rules types they have tested on, as well as persons not tested reports, text execution reports, and drug and alcohol test reports. To enable more streamlined management of crew certifications, CloudMoyo also build out qualification and certification reporting.

The ingredients making our customer's digitalization successful

Many railroads today are embarking on similar digitalization stories. Yet there are several key components of success that is setting this short line railroad apart in adopting and leveraging the full value of cloud-based technologies.

The first component is its people. From our experience partnering with this railroad, we've seen the strength of the community it has built and the way the organization supports its employees. This was present before the digitalization of its operational and safety testing, and this is key to ensuring successful digital transformation across the organization.

The second critical component is culture. From the leadership down, our customer has led the way in embracing change and leveraging new tools and technologies to work more efficiently in the day-to-day. The railroad sees digitalization as a source of previously unlocked productivity and safety gains.

About Us

CloudMoyo empowers rail and transportation companies to gain greater insight, unlock efficiencies, and improve agility in crew management, rail transportation management, fleet and asset management, and in critical areas of safety, operations and maintenance.

CloudMoyo's cloud-based, AI-driven products and solutions—combined with our railroad industry domain experience with both Class I and short line railroads—makes us an ideal partner for the railroad's digital transformation journey.

Headquartered in Bellevue, WA, with a presence in Kansas City, MO and an innovation center in Pune, India, CloudMoyo is poised to help intelligent enterprises build innovative solutions and leverage the power of data-driven insights.

cloudmoyo™

Bellevue, WA • Overland Park, KS • Jacksonville, FL

www.cloudmoyo.com   marketing@cloudmoyo.com

Microsoft Partner | Gold Data Analytics | Gold Cloud Platform
Microsoft