

\$150k?

I'm rameerez, maker of PromptHero, Hustl, Jobician, and other products that are used by millions of people across the globe. My work has been featured in The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal, Vox, Fast Company and others.

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I recently posted on X about how I saved 10x in monthly infrastructure costs by getting off the

cloud and migrating all my infrastructure away from AWS and into a few self-managed servers.

That's over \$15k a year in savings. \$150k over 10 years. How many things can you buy with

The tweet got some attention, and many people started reporting similar cost savings by

My monthly bill went down from \$1,400 a month to just under \$120 a month.

How I exited the cloud

Oct 2, 2024 · 8 min read

migrating off the cloud. Lots of similar success stories: [1] [2] [3] [4] [5] [6] [7]

I also wrote about why the cloud is a bad idea.

Many other folks were interested in doing the same, but were concerned about three main things:

How much time does it take to maintain self-maintained infra vs hosted services?

• What does it actually take to migrate off AWS and exit the cloud?

And that's exactly why I'm writing this blogpost. How much time did it take to migrate off

The quick answer is that I migrated production in **under an hour**, once I had everything

But don't worry, you don't have to go through that. I documented everything and made scripts

to automate all the work, so you don't have to waste that time. You can find everything here:

It's a deeply technical guide with step-to-step instructions. Assuming you're starting from

scratch and need some time to read it and understand it first, it should take a developer 1-2 days

to go through it and implement it. You can either stop reading this now and get straight to it, or

How I got off the cloud and migrated everything from AWS to a VPS in Hetzner.

keep reading this blogpost for more context on what we're dealing with here.

figured out. The long answer is it took me several days, if not weeks, worth of testing and figuring things

out until I found the exact steps I needed to take.

the cloud?

part.

something along those lines.

providers.

expensive.

Javi 📀

@rameerez · Follow

**Javi @**rameerez I can't wait to get off AWS

This shit is out of control

I no longer even know what they're charging me for

How much time did it take to migrate?

## How much time does it take to maintain self-maintained infrastructure vs hosted

services? People keep making the argument that managing your own servers is almost a full-time job – but I've been managing production servers for the past ~10 years and couldn't disagree more.

Running my own servers has always been the default for me. I rented my first hobby server in

2006 (under my mom's name, in fact, because I was just a teenager and legally unable to get it

myself at the time), and then started running and managing servers professionally circa 2012-

2013. I started out with OVH iirc, then went through a bunch of white-label providers, then

tried Heroku for a couple years, then moved into Digital Ocean and stayed there for the most

I only made the move to AWS last year, when I got tricked into it with promises of infinite

flexibility, scalability, reliability and availability. All those cloud buzzwords that mean close to nothing to small business owners, like me, that at the end of the day just see their bank accounts getting depleted month after month. Dollars going from my pocket to Amazon shareholders, getting nothing in return. As for time spent managing your own servers vs the cloud – the reality is I don't see much

difference, honestly. It's all machines you ssh into. I had to do server admin work in my AWS

servers too. Things would break, or the server would get an update and would need a restart, or

I consider this admin work to be part of my job, and I've never managed to not do it – despise

Why are servers so cheap and why is the

Technology has evolved a lot, especially over the last 10-15 years, and many things have been

commoditized. Everything, from storage (you can get tons of storage for cheap) to compute, is

 $\mathbb{X}$ 

cloud so expensive? What's the trick?

The quick answer is: servers *are* just cheap. You've been tricked into thinking they're

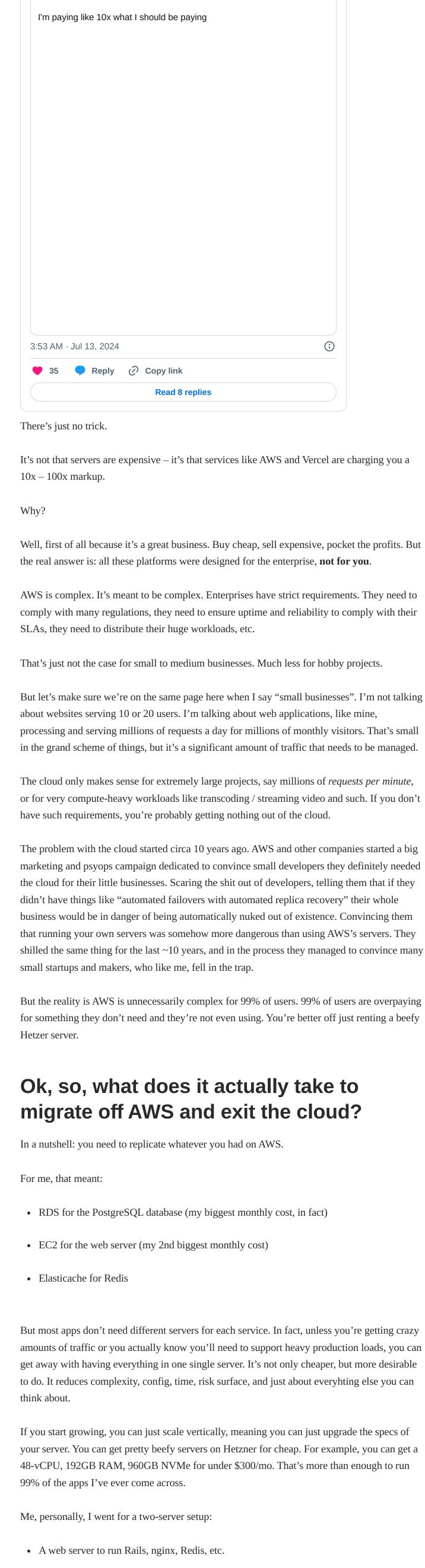
a commodity now. In fact, you can buy your own entire server for under \$1k:

Turns out you can just buy a whole server with:

deeply wanting to avoid it, and despise having used AWS, Heroku, and some other PaaS

- 22 CPUs - 256 GB RAM - 2TB NVMe For under \$1k Many people are paying many times that A MONTH on

cloud services like AWS While they could run 99% of their workloads in something like this instead x.com/rameerez/statu...



A dedicated server to PostgreSQL

the case for 99% of the apps)

HETZNER Cloud

Create a server

Nuremberg

Helsinki

Apps

Ubuntu

Debian

24.04

12

9

Rocky Linux

as your base image.

run it.

Hillsboro, OR

Location

**Image** 

To get started, you just need to spin up a new server:

Web - Staging ~

Choose a location for your server. You can only select some features, such as private

only select Primary IPs and Volumes that are in the same location as the server.

Networks and Load Balancers, if they are in the same network zone as the server. You can

Ubuntu, Fedora, Debian, CentOS and Rocky Linux – you have a wide variety of operating systems to choose from, and of course, we provide the most current release. Our apps provide you easy access to popular software, such as Docker, WordPress or Nextcloud and

comes pre-installed and ready to use when you create your server.

I have tested it with my own production workloads, and having PostgreSQL running in the

same machine as my Rails server tends to take up too many resources and makes the app slow.

Separating the DB into its own beefy server solved the problem. But again, this is only required

9000 ~

Hillsboro, OR

Ubuntu 24.04

CCX33 Dedicated CPU

Image

Type

1 key

O Volumes

Firewalls

Backups

Labels

Name

TOTAL @

Create & Buy now

All prices incl. 0 % VAT. Our t

Cloud config

O Placement groups

SSH keys

IPv4, IPv6 Networking

if you can't manage to get everything running smoothly in the same server (which should be

Q Search...

Falkenstein

Singapore

Ashburn, VA

Fedora

CentOS

AlmaLinux

40

Stream 9

eu-central

Why?

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요

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Make sure you create a ed25519 ssh key and configure your new Hetzner server to use it — we won't be accessing the server with any password, only ssh for security purposes. You can also add automatic backups for cheap. Finish configuring it and click "Create and buy", the server will spin up in under a minute.

• For the Rails / web server, I created this script: Rails production server setup

You can just ssh as root into the machine wget the script, chmod +x it to make it runnable, and

Both scripts try to follow best security practices to harden the instance and make it actually

carefully and/or ask Claude or ChatGPT to read them for you and explain what they do. Never

Just those two scripts should get you 90% of the way. They get you machines ready to deploy

apps to and support production workloads. It takes an hour or so to get both machines set up.

If you happen to also use Ruby on Rails like me, I made a much more detailed technical guide

in a couple hours just by following the steps and running the PostgreSQL commands described

production-ready. But I recommend you do your due dilligence and read through them

run scripts from random people on the internet (like me) without checking them first and

• For the PostgreSQL server, I created this script: <a href="PostgreSQL server setup">PostgreSQL server setup</a>

Once you have ssh access to the server, we'll need to configure it:

making sure they do exactly what you want, and nothing more.

to dump and re-import the data.

And that's it. There's not much more to it.

But I don't have everything figured out.

Type your comment here...

Choose your preferred location (always better close to your users), and choose Ubuntu Server

with step-by-step explanations on how to migrate all your data off the cloud and into a server: How I got off the cloud and migrated everything from AWS to a VPS in Hetzner Once you have your production machine(s) set up, you should be able to get all data migrated

All of this works for me and is exactly how I do things for my own businesses. This is the current iteration of everything I've learned on how to run production apps over the years.

People have been raising claims about reliability, recovering from disasters, automating backups, that kind of stuff. I think those are valid claims, I just don't think they're worth paying 10x more in monthly costs. I do backups; and if things out of my control break (like datacenter failures, which are pretty rare but I agree they can happen once every... few years?) then I guess can assume a little downtime to fix things up and restore a backup. I'm okay with that and I think it's worth the savings. But in any case, I'm sure there's better ways of doing things, and I'm sure there things I'm not even considering that I should look into. I could always benefit from good feedback, so if you reach out on X. an alert when I publish a new post:

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have any good ideas or constructive criticism on how to do things better, please comment or P.S.: <u>Follow me on X!</u> You can also <u>read other stories</u> I've written, and subscribe below to get No spam ever, unsubscribe with one single click.

by @rameerez

