

# Platform-as-a-Service solves key challenge for UK government

## What was the challenge?

- Government department planned to switch to a fully-serviced cloud environment in three years
- But its existing hardware was end-of-life and a stop-gap solution was required right away
- Vast amounts of sensitive records needed moving safely to a new platform — but the department didn't wish to own any hardware

*"CAE worked with us to 'think outside the box' and take our partnership into new territory. Together, we achieved the best possible outcome for a high-profile client at the heart of government."*

**Nicky Stewart, Commercial Director, UKCloud**

## THE OUTCOMES

- CAE uses its Unstructured Data Solutions (UDS) expertise to design a robust, bespoke private cloud.
- CAE's commercial innovation and flexibility sees it becoming a platform-as-a-service (PaaS) provider for the first time.
- Government client gets what it wanted: An on-premise platform with cloud-like consumption and billing.
- Migration of petabytes of sensitive data is completed successfully by CAE — with zero disruption.

## THE POINT

UKCloud is a major force within IT for the UK public sector. It has 20% of the G-Cloud IaaS (Infrastructure-as-a-Service) market and has been involved in more than 200 transformation projects.

Its client, a high-profile government department, planned to move to a fully-managed cloud environment in three years. However, its current hardware was end-of-life — and so a new platform was needed fast. Huge amounts of sensitive records also had to be migrated safely and with zero disruption.

**UKCloud was happy to host a new platform but the government department didn't wish to own any hardware.**

Both organisations needed a trusted IT specialist to step in with a bold and flexible solution. CAE were up for the challenge.

## SOLUTIONS

- Provision of private cloud platform-as-a-service (PaaS)
- 2x fully resilient Dell Isilon clusters with multi petabyte storage
- Associated networking

## SERVICES

- Platform design, delivery, installation and project management
- Migration of legacy data to new platform
- First-line technical support, dovetailing with 5 year Dell Pro-Support

## The CAE approach



### WILLINGNESS TO FIX INTRACTABLE PROBLEMS

- CAE's 'can do' attitude and commercial innovation meant it was willing to solve a unique challenge faced by UKCloud and its client.
- For the first time, CAE decided to take on the ownership of a platform and create a business model that worked for everyone.
- The commercial model has a monthly subscription that's completely predictable, with maintenance and support included — and no hidden costs.
- The project takes CAE into exciting new territory as a PaaS provider and strengthens its partnership with UKCloud.



### OPTIMAL DESIGN, USING A UNIQUE SKILL-SET

- The government department now benefits from a bespoke private cloud — an important stepping-stone towards full cloud transition in three years.
- As a Platinum Partner, CAE worked in close partnership with Dell Technologies on the solution scope and design.
- The CAE team used its leading skills in UDS (Unstructured Data Solutions) to create the ideal solution using Dell Isilon clusters — the premier product in the UDS space.
- The new platform is extremely robust, while offering greater scalability, capacity and efficiency, with a smaller and greener footprint.



### SMOOTH MIGRATION OF SENSITIVE DATA

- The government department couldn't afford to take any risk with its files — or have its operations disrupted.
- CAE migrated petabytes of sensitive data successfully to the new platform within UKCloud's Crown Campus facilities at Corsham and Farnborough.
- The CAE team followed strict processes and worked within targeted timeslots to meet deadlines.
- Migration went smoothly and safely — invisible to the outside world — and without interrupting day-to-day government operations in any way.



### ENABLING KEY CLIENTS TO ACHIEVE GOALS

- The project has demonstrated what CAE and UKCloud can achieve together.
- The new platform enables the government department to stay firmly on track with its cloud transition timeline.
- The project has saved the department from expensive alternatives — and ensured its valuable data has been kept safe.

## WHY CAE?

Our agility allows us to take a strategic approach to understanding, recommending and implementing our clients' needs, delivering a truly customised approach and empowering our customers.

We work to deliver an outcome that exceeds our customers' expectations. We drive cost efficiency down, ensuring we benchmark costs to ensure predictability, transparency, consistency and inclusivity. Our agility is demonstrated through time gains and strategic efficiency, which we measure so we can refine and improve.

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*"CAE saw all the challenges and solved them. This project succeeded on two fronts — providing a bespoke, advanced technical solution combined with a commercial model that suited our client precisely."*

**Nicky Stewart**, Commercial Director,  
UKCloud

