SECURE, RELIABLE, FUTURE-PROOF

Companies House

Companies House set to achieve its digital goals with new storage platform from NetApp

SERVICES
- Strategy & Advisory Services

USER EXPERIENCE
- Boosts user satisfaction
- Improves access to information

BUSINESS IMPACT
- Supports digitalisation
- Improves productivity
- Reduces costs

OBJECTIVE

Companies House is on a mission to fully digitalise its business. To achieve this goal, it must ensure its growing volumes of digital data remain highly available. When the organisation's existing storage system was approaching end of support, Companies House decided to migrate to a more strategic platform, but needed to ensure it invested in the right technology.

SOLUTION

Companies House turned to long-term partner Computacenter to compare the products on the market and find the most suitable solution. With its wealth of storage expertise and intimate knowledge of Companies House's IT infrastructure and goals, Computacenter recommended NetApp's AFF A300 Flash Storage System with OnCommand Insight Management. The new solution will provide active-active storage across two sites to safeguard business continuity.

OUTCOME

With fit-for-purpose, next-generation storage, Companies House can improve the availability and security of its data for a better user experience. The solution will also help Companies House reduce management costs, lower risk, and align with its digital goals.

OBJECTIVE

Supporting a digital experience for staff and customers

Companies House provides a public registry of businesses in the UK. Its services include keeping financial and other business records, and providing access to company information and copies of certificates.

Over the last 10 years, the organisation has been working towards digitalising its business – and with great success. More than 90% of its customer services are now digital, and 85% of its transactions.

"From e-billing to app-based searches, we aim to offer services that are accessible and simple for customers to use," explained Simon Goman, Head of Infrastructure at Companies House. "Over the next few years we're hoping to have digitalised 100% of our operations."

With more and more data being generated, the organisation must have a robust storage system in place to ensure its information remains secure and highly available. "OurIts services receive millions of hits every day from both members of the public and o 1,000 employees. We must ensure that users can access the information they need every time," said Simon.

When its existing storage platform, which underpins each of these digital transactions, was reaching end of life, Companies House took the opportunity to upgrade to a higher performance system that could scale to meet its growing needs.

SOLUTION

Selecting the right storage platform

To ensure it selected the right solution, Companies House turned to long-term IT partner Computacenter. "Computacenter provides us with infrastructure support services and has worked on numerous projects for us in the past," explained Simon. "It was vital that we investedIt in the most suitable storage technology for both our current and future needs,, so it asked Computacenter for an impartial assessment of the products available," said Simon.

After reviewing the organisation's technical requirements and existing infrastructure, Computacenter conducted a thorough market evaluation before recommending the NetApp AFF A300 Flash Storage System with OnCommand Insight Management. "We had an idea of what we needed but it was really reassuring to have access to an expert opinion – and even more so when they confirmed what we were thinking," said Simon.

Next generation active-active storage

Companies House is now consolidating its three datacenters down to just two, installing the 10-terabyte capacity active-active NetApp storage solution at its Cardiff and Newport locations.

"The NetApp solution gives us greater resilience and better availability – if anything happens at one site, the other takes over a heartbeat to ensure business continuity," comments Simon.

> Our two key business goals are to become completely digital and to deliver excellent customer service. The new storage platform will help us achieve both.

**Simon Goman,
Head of Infrastructure
Companies House.**

ABOUT COMPANIES HOUSE

Companies House is the government body responsible for keeping records for the UK's limited companies. All companies are required to register with Companies House and file financial and other business records, which then become public records. It offers a range of digital and mobile services, and aims to become 100% digital in the coming years.

OUTCOME
Providing a better experience for staff and customers

By consolidating its storage estate, Companies House has reduced its IT footprint, lowering management and support costs. "With Computacenter's impartial advice, we know we've got the right technology behind us," Simon comments. "Computacenter's consultants have a thorough understanding of both our goals and our IT infrastructure, and they worked closely with us to ensure we achieved the best possible outcome."

The new storage platform will help Companies House to:

Increase user and customer satisfaction: Safeguarding access to information with newer technology will enable the organisation to deliver a faster, more seamless experience to both its employees and its customers.

Reduce risks: The active-active storage solution ensures that data is available at all times, reducing the risks of an IT outage impacting productivity or access to services.

Future-proof its business: In addition to being a cost-effective repository for the organisation's existing data, the solution will act as a stepping stone to aligning with the government's cloud-first strategy in the future.

"Our two key business goals are to become completely digital and to deliver excellent customer service. The new storage platform will help us achieve both," concludes Simon.

MORE INFORMATION

To find out more about our Advisory Services and read more customer case studies, please visit **www.computacenter.com**