BJSS

Disclosure Scotland

MIGRATING POLICE DATA TO THE CLOUD

A BJSS Case Study

Disclosure Scotland and BJSS successfully migrate police data to the cloud. The first time this has been achieved in Europe.

Challenge

It is projected that Disclosure Scotland will process 3-5% more disclosure applications year-on-year. Despite increasing demands on services, the organisation was constrained by an ageing legacy infrastructure that was costly to scale, difficult to change, required substantial manual processing, and inhibited continuous improvement.

Formed in 2002, Disclosure Scotland is an executive agency of the Scottish Government. Its primary aim is to safeguard the people of Scotland by providing criminal record disclosure services for businesses, public services and voluntary organisations.

While Disclosure Scotland continues to be successful in achieving its aim, it needed to modernise to meet the needs of a population increasingly accustomed to fast, online, digital services. As a result, the agency is now undergoing an extensive digital transformation programme, applying the culture, business models and technologies to respond to people's raised expectations. This will make it possible to deliver services that are simpler, cheaper and better for the organisation and its customers.

A mission-critical requirement was the adoption of a cloud-first approach which would deliver significant cost savings while helping to create a faster and more accessible digital disclosure service.

For the programme to succeed, it was essential for police data to be stored in the public cloud. These data sources are fundamental for background checks and would be required to link with other cloud native systems within Disclosure Scotland. Police records are highly sensitive and, despite previous attempts by other organisations across Europe, had never been migrated to the public cloud.

Why BJSS

Disclosure Scotland selected BJSS to work with them on the migration of the police data from its legacy system to the public cloud. BJSS has over 200 Amazon Web Services (AWS) certified professionals, each with advanced technical skills and experience in designing distributed applications and systems on AWS. It is also a founding global partner of the AWS Well-Architected Programme. Additionally, as Disclosure Scotland's digital transformation partner, BJSS has a clear understanding of Disclosure Scotland and its ambitions. These credentials, combined with BJSS' award-winning Enterprise Agile® delivery approach, allowed Disclosure Scotland to proceed with the project.

Solution

Disclosure Scotland, working with BJSS, carried out an initial Discovery phase. This de-risked the project and defined the options for implementation.

The UK Government has a stringent set of security controls, so it was essential to map them onto the new cloud-based solution. This established the scope of a Minimum Viable Product (MVP) – the smallest feature set required to satisfy the government's security controls. This MVP was successfully approved and delivered using 28 AWS tools and services.

With high levels of accreditation, such as ISO27001 information security standards, the Disclosure Scotland service includes a secure, six-layered environment that is backed up with best of breed technologies and industrialised processes to ensure both data security and integrity. The environment is fully automated, repeatedly changing and adapting itself against real-time security threats. This combination of mapping and security measures is innovative and largely unmatched.

Results

The police data was successfully migrated to the cloud, having achieved UK Government accreditation. This delivery helps Disclosure Scotland achieve its strategic ambition of a fast, accessible digital service.

The solution is continuously improved. The team innovates and implements new features and enhancements, automating the rapid release of new services in a code-defined way, without compromising data security.

This delivery was enabled using an Agile approach. So complex tasks were tackled first, resulting in a highly secure and stable environment. The solution delivers substantial cost savings in comparison to the legacy hosted platform.

As this new service is hosted in the public cloud, it is easy for Disclosure Scotland to scale the service up and down depending on client demand. For example, it can ramp the service up to accommodate increased demand during the teacher-application high season ahead of new school terms, and then wind it down immediately after. This improves resilience and customer experience while providing essential cost savings via a pay-as-you-use billing model.

This project was delivered entirely in Scotland and can be used as a blueprint for similar UK public sector projects. It has also acted as a critical enabler for the wider digital transformation programme at Disclosure Scotland.

> "This cloud migration project is the first of its kind in Europe and is a vital component of the wider Transformation project. The combined Disclosure Scotland and BJSS team created this next-generation highly secure platform that provides quick access to information. It's a great example of how Disclosure Scotland is investing in protecting Scotland's people and shaping a safer environment to live and work."
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> Disclosure Scotland