Driver & Vehicle Licensing Agency

mobilise

Drivers and Vehicles Agency and Mobilise Migrate Services to the Cloud

Background

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency wished to move their online services from a traditional virtualised environment to Amazon Webservices.

Mobilise, a trusted partner, was able to help them achieve their aim of improved services and lower costs by working collaboratively with the DVLA project team.

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Problem

The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency runs a number of online services for both members of the public, and organisations in the motor trade. These services were running on a virtualised infrastructure that was not offering the best performance, flexibility and cost.

The DVLA have embarked upon a transformation of their digital services and the flexibility to spin up and replicate test environments was becoming difficult on the old platform. A move to a hyperscale cloud platform seemed the obvious way forward.

The main challenges that needed to be overcome to facilitate the move were:

- Establishing a data migration strategy from a multi-tenanted virtualised environment, which was both complex and large; and
- Ensuring service was not interrupted for high profile online digital services.

Mobilise undertook a discovery exercise to understand what systems needed to be migrated, how much data needed to be moved and what connectivity needed to be replicated in the new cloud environment. It then presented a migration strategy to the DVLA for approval.

Due to the complex nature of the applications and because of the mix of in-house and externally developed applications, it was decided the least risky and quickest way to migrate services was to perform a block based like for like replication to ensure all configurations and versions were consistent. Once a working stack was tested, the infrastructure in AWS was codified so that it could be recreated as required.

The DVLA project managed the migration, and once the methodology was proven, Mobilise embedded engineers within the migration team to work with DVLA staff. Once the initial data migration and testing was complete, a two week go-live cycle was adopted which saw migrated services rapidly launched and expensive double run costs kept to a minimum.

The aim of the migration was to deliver at pace and to change only the infrastructure tier, to keep the migration focussed and ensuring application support activity didn't need to change a great deal to cater for the change. The applications themselves remained unchanged and the consumers of the services did not experience any difference in user functionality.

Solution

The project completed and saw over one thousand workloads assessed and migrated.

Ten online high priority digital services were migrated without any major service outages or issues.

The compute costs reduced dramatically and the savings paid for the project in less than 6 months, and tests show that performance has improved on the new platform.

All infrastructure is now maintained as code which allows for rapid build and tear down of environments, delivering further savings as non-production environments can be created on-demand.

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About Mobilise Cloud

Mobilise helps government and commercial organisations to ensure their migration to Cloud is a success from strategy through to design, delivery and organisational and operational change.

Mobilise has a wealth of experience in gaining best value from IT infrastructure provision, and has partnered with the leading Cloud providers including Amazon Web Services and Microsoft Azure to ensure a range of industry leading options are available to replace IT infrastructure with the 'right cloud' service, and to deliver ongoing IT transformation through cloud native services at pace.

People are key to the transition to Cloud, and Mobilise is experienced in communicating the change and gaining buy-in at all levels of an organisation to create excitement and active participation, and enabling customer teams to ensure they can participate fully in the technology change required.

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