

SCIENCE WAREHOUSE ACCELERATES PRODUCT INNOVATION WITH NEW HYBRID CLOUD MODEL

BUSINESS

Based in Leeds, Science Warehouse provides spend management solutions to both public and private organisations across the UK, Ireland and Australia. Its technology drives efficient procurement processes within businesses, benefitting both buyers and suppliers.

CHALLENGES

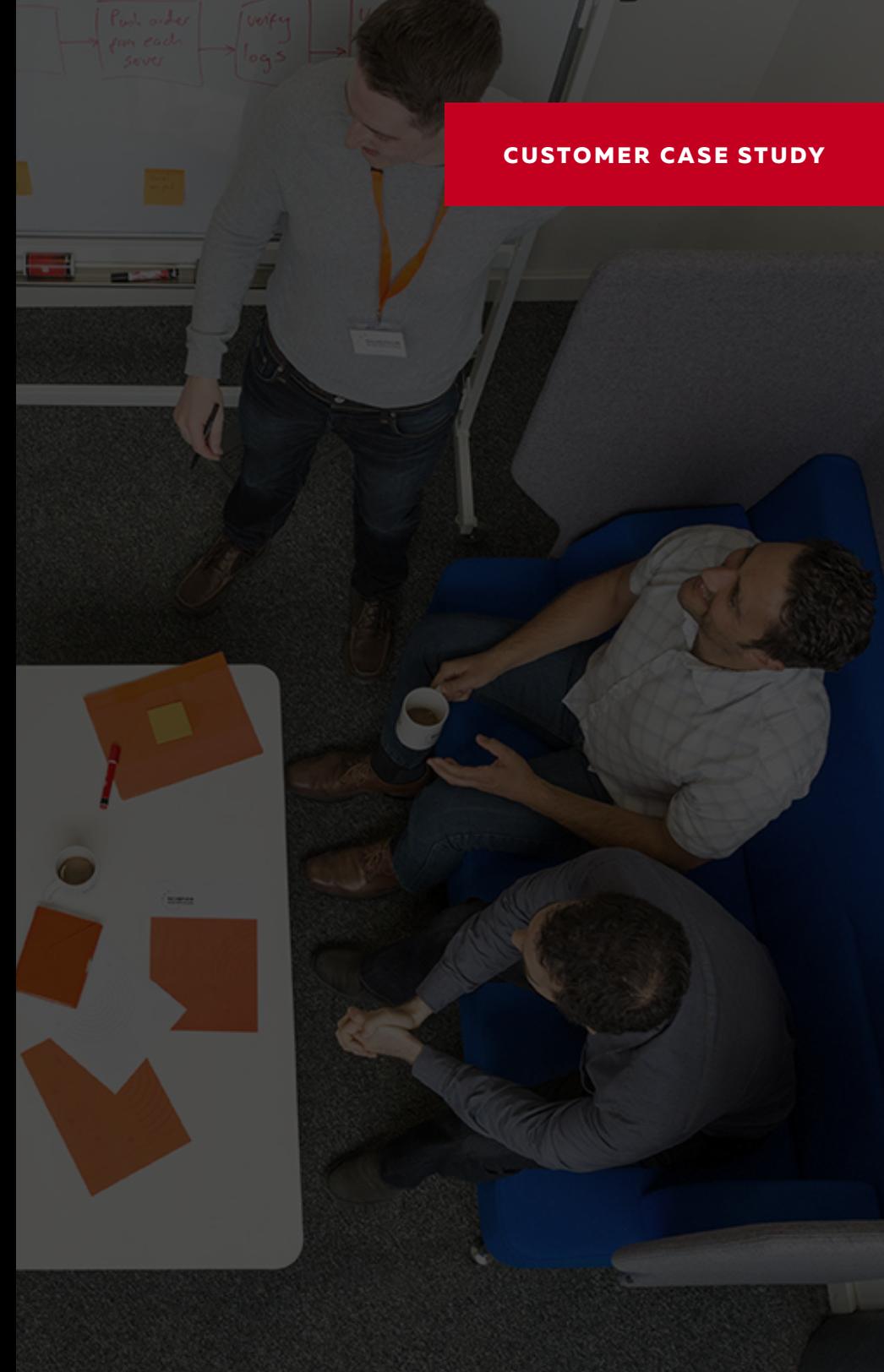
Science Warehouse wanted to drive innovation in its product line, but its previous infrastructure could not provide the flexibility and growth that the team endeavoured to attain. While the team had experience of using AWS, they hadn't used it to build products suitable for deploying at scale in production.

SOLUTION

Rackspace hybrid cloud model, incorporating Fanatical Support® for AWS and a VMware physical infrastructure.

OUTCOME

Using Rackspace Fanatical Support® for AWS in conjunction with a physically managed VMware environment, meant Science Warehouse navigated a smooth transition to hybrid cloud. With Rackspace expertise, Science Warehouse has innovated its existing product portfolio, ensuring a strong relationship with buyers and suppliers. The hybrid cloud model, allowed Science Warehouse to accelerate the rate of development and deliver three major product releases in the first half of the year, giving it confidence to deliver further innovation in future.



Based in Leeds, Science Warehouse connects buyers with suppliers through its business-to-business eMarketplace tool. Servicing clients from the higher education, healthcare, housing, local government and commercial sectors, the company uses technology that allows finance and procurement teams to control spending and foster strong relationships with suppliers. Employing Rackspace Fanatical Support® for AWS, in conjunction with a VMware physically-managed foundation, enabled Science Warehouse to navigate a smooth transition to a hybrid cloud model. With Rackspace expertise, the spend management solutions provider has delivered innovations to its existing product portfolio, including brand-new offerings, which differentiate it from competitors.

Back in early 2016, Jonathan Russell, Chief Technology Officer at Science Warehouse, and his team, undertook a review of the company's product sets. "When we looked at the capabilities we had and measured them against what we wanted the business to achieve, we quickly realised it wouldn't be possible with the current legacy system", said Jonathan. "The physical infrastructure we had was not going to allow us the flexibility we needed to grow our solution set and our business." To deliver the level of innovation needed, Jonathan and his team knew that moving new product development to a hybrid cloud architecture was the only viable option.

COST-EFFECTIVE MIGRATION

"Although both myself and members of the team had experience of working with AWS, we hadn't used it to build a product at scale in production", admits Jonathan.

As timings would have it, Rackspace had just launched Fanatical Support for AWS, and Science Warehouse became one of the first customers in the UK to utilise the new service. Jonathan and his team looked at several providers, but ultimately chose Rackspace. They wanted a provider that could look after the physical VMware assets in conjunction with offering in-depth expertise on AWS. "When embarking on such an important journey for our business, having Rackspace meant that we could talk to one team with all the

expertise needed, making the process as simple as possible", says Jonathan. Rackspace worked with Science Warehouse to smoothly migrate the existing VMware environment to Rackspace over a bank holiday weekend. AWS services have been added to the hybrid cloud architecture as the new products have been developed.

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JONATHAN RUSSELL :: CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER, SCIENCE WAREHOUSE

THRIFTY INNOVATION

With a new 'cloud-first' approach, Science Warehouse steamed ahead on new products and features. "Product development has been the overwhelming benefit from the migration, the team have been able to deliver three major product releases so far this year. We've more than doubled our deployment frequency which has allowed us to increase our rate of new product delivery, supporting increased innovation across the solution. Access to skilled expertise at Rackspace, and the team's 'been there, done that' approach has helped our in-house experts concentrate on what they do best", said Jonathan. "The pace of innovation is helping us to differentiate our offering from our competitors and provide next generation products to our buyers and suppliers."

PROCURING A WORKING RELATIONSHIP

The fruitful relationship between Science Warehouse and Rackspace didn't stop once the migration was completed. "We have regular contact with the AWS experts at Rackspace, who proactively keep us up to date on all the major products and services from the provider. Not only do the Rackspace team keep us informed on all things

AWS, but it's a two-way conversation about our road map to ensure that we choose the right tools and services for each project", said Jonathan.

Science Warehouse hopes to go even further with its new infrastructure by bringing additional spend management and analytics products to the market and expanding abroad, which includes increasing its footprint in Australia.

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KEY STATS

More than **doubled** our deployment frequency

ABOUT RACKSPACE

Rackspace, the #1 managed cloud company, helps businesses tap the power of cloud computing without the complexity and cost of managing it on their own. Rackspace engineers deliver specialized expertise, easy-to-use tools, and Fanatical Support® for leading technologies developed by AWS, Google, Microsoft, OpenStack, VMware and others. The company serves customers in 120 countries, including more than half of the FORTUNE 100. Rackspace was named a leader in the 2015 Gartner Magic Quadrant for Cloud-Enabled Managed Hosting, and has been honored by Fortune, Forbes, and others as one of the best companies to work for.

Learn more at www.rackspace.com/en-gb or call us at **0208 734 2600**.



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2022-Science-Warehouse-Case-Study-V2

AUGUST 21, 2017

