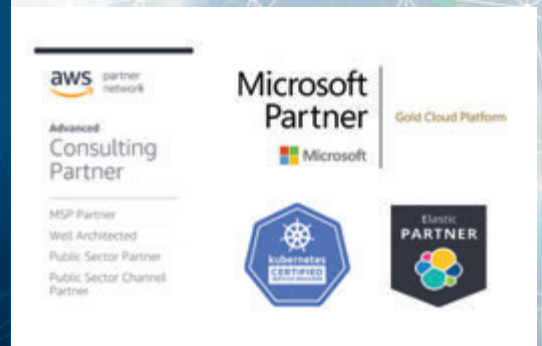# Helping the
DVLA to Become a Cloud Centre of Excellence

Find out how Mobilise helped the DVLA to become self-sufficient cloud natives with a Cloud Centre of Excellence.

INTRODUCTION

With over 5,000 employees, and over £9 billion in annual revenues, the Driver and Vehicle Licence Agency (DVLA) is an enterprise user of IT services. After moving to an insourced IT service (from a long-term outsourced contract) they had the ambition to put cloud-based services at the heart of their transformation journey to deliver new digital services.

Mobilise were selected as a partner to ensure the successful adoption and implementation of cloud services – enabling the progression from initial 'quick wins' to becoming an exemplar of cloud delivery with their own 24/7 support capability underpinning the work of their award-winning multi-squad agile project teams.

1

Getting Started

Prior to working with Mobilise Cloud, the DVLA had already identified the importance of cloud computing as part of their transformation strategy and had started to develop new services. However, different projects were being implemented using different standards - leading to inconsistencies in cloud projects across the organisation and a duplication of efforts - with many team members working to solve the same problem.

2

Best Practice Hosting Function

When Mobilise Cloud began partnering, the first activity was to set out Cloud Operating best practices and procedures. A hosting function was set up to control access to cloud environments and enforce standards. This ensured all projects adopted best practices with consistency and increased productivity across the projects. A tagging system was also created allowing project resources to be tagged and their costs allocated to their correspond-ing budgets.

3

Migration of platforms from private cloud to AWS

Increased confidence in cloud use, and a cost reduction requirement, drove the next project. Mobilise helped the agency to migrate over 600 servers, 60TB of storage and all public facing systems from an internal private cloud to AWS, without any service interruption. The platforms were converted to code-based deployments which streamlined application delivery, ensured environments were consistent and provided a rapid recovery to a platform 'known-state' should there be a failure scenario. Migrating to this platform resulted in a considerable savings and delivered a 4 month return on investment.

> *A great migration project delivered on time and generated the expected returns",*
> *Daniel Came (Delivery Manager)*

CHALLENGE

For new services a microservices based architecture pattern was selected. The DVLA needed to ensure consistent delivery of microservices, and to be able to deploy these cloud-native applications across multiple cloud platforms. Mobilise assisted the DVLA to design and build a common services platform using Kubernetes across AWS and Azure. This platform builds and maintains deployment pipelines, allowing multiple delivery squads to consume this as a service, with all environments codified to ensure they remain consistent.

> *We wanted to ensure we had the most agile technical platform so that we could deliver our new services at pace, the Mobilise team delivered", Matt Lewis (Chief Architect)*

COST SAVING

Mobilise worked with DVLA throughout the engagement to identify cost saving actions and implement them. Analysing project spends on an ongoing, automated, basis identified potential saving opportunities - such as 'right sizing' servers for performance and cost, reducing unnecessary infrastructure, implementing automated shutdown of non-production environments and selecting the most efficient cost models – such as 'reserved instances.'

1

Security Log integration

To ensure the highest levels of security were maintained Mobilise worked with the Cyber Security team to capture system and application logging information and send them to their enterprise Security Incident and Event Management (SIEM) tool. Mobilise captured logging information from both AWS and Azure and used a 'collector' to allow these logs to be ingested by the DVLA's on-site SEIM tool, enabling security analysts to quickly be alerted to any potential issues.

2

Self Service Platform

Mobilise helped to create a Self-Service platform for Software Engineering Squads so that standardised environment provisioning was even more efficient. A multi-cloud Kubernetes based platform with multiple consistent environments was built allowing software teams to develop applications using deployment pipelines. Mobilise understood that when deploying Pre-production and Production environments, this would remove inconsistencies across application environments.

Using a Kubernetes-based platform meant that developers were freed up from thinking about environment provisioning, network performance, security or scaling as this is handled for them with the K8s cluster.

3

Ongoing Support

During the partnership Mobilise has not only helped the DVLA with improving cloud projects, cost saving and security enhancements but also has been on hand throughout providing training and enablement. We have supported DVLA staff with training sessions, how-to guides, provided shadowing and buddy support.

RESULTS

Being embedded within engineering squads providing DevOps support and training helped ensure applications were deployed into standardised environments and followed best practice frameworks.

Our support services (AWS Managed Service Provider, ISO27001 and Kubernetes Certified) were used to provide 24x7x365 support while the DVLA upskilled their own teams and scaled up their internal capability.

Cloud Native and Self Sufficient

The ambition within the DVLA to undertake an organisation wide transformation has delivered a range of new digital services and reduced operational costs. Working together with Mobilise the DVLA has transformed its cloud delivery and operations capabilities, becoming self-sufficient 'cloud natives'.

Mobilise are pleased to have helped the DVLA to deliver their 'Cloud Centre of Excellence' and look forward to seeing the DVLA continue to deliver new digital services at pace.

"

We've had a great engagement with the Mobilise team, and have delivered an end to end project that has resulted in us being fully enabled and self-sufficient", Louise Pierpoint (Cloud Engineering Product Manager)

www.mobilise.cloud

T: 0345 054 2560   E: info@mobilise.cloud