

Eastlight Community Homes: Migration to AWS cloud from VMware on-premis.



Who are Eastlight Community Homes?

A pro-active housing association in the south-east of England, with over 12,000 homes.

Challenges – Eastlight Community Homes

- Aging technology infrastructure, including the housing management system. Plus, they wanted scalability to keep innovating.
- Data centre costs were rising due to energy costs. and flood risk and UK power. UK power outages increased downtime risk despite their generators.
- They wanted to improve the resilience and reliability of applications.
- They aimed to keep cloud costs below on-premises costs, reduce licensing costs, and avoid being reliant into Microsoft.
- Eastlight's busy IT team faced challenges in migrating to the cloud while maintaining service to staff and customers.

Solution – Digital Space

Step 1 – Discovery

- Initiated a funded Cloud Discovery project with Digital Space

Step 2 – Optimisation & Licensing Optimisation

- Provided an AWS Optimization and Licensing Assessment (OLA) to optimise their Microsoft workloads.

Step 3 – Build a Business Case

- Evaluate the existing infrastructure and exclude any unnecessary servers before migrating.
- Develop a business case for the migration, highlighting how the cloud will be cost-effective.

Step 4 – Leverage Partner Funding

- Digital Space are a preferred AWS public sector partner. This has helped Eastlight unlock AWS Migration funding and the One Government Value Agreement (OGVA), securing significant committed discounts from AWS for three years.

Step 5 – Migration

- Migrate all applications, including legacy systems and the Orchard housing management software, from VMware to the native AWS Cloud.

Step 6 – Managed Service

- Implemented an integrated Managed Service using Digital Space's Cloud Centre of Excellence.
- Trained Eastlight's internal IT team on cloud technologies ensuring they are fully equipped to manage the environment independently in the future.
- Enhanced disaster recovery and security measures with improved backup processes and snapshots.
- Optimised cloud monitoring and patching processes for better efficiency.

Step 7 – FinOps Review

- Ensure cost management through regular FinOps reviews with Eastlight's finance team.
- Optimised cloud infrastructure and minimize storage usage to keep costs as low as possible.

Get in touch:

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A vibrant new housing association for the East of England

Results

- Eastlight's IT infrastructure now future proof through cloud adoption, enhancing IT agility and the wider businesses productivity.
- Improved operational resilience with robust Disaster Recovery solutions.
- Significant cost reductions were achieved through licensing, VMware, and migration from their data centres, resulting in the removal of all on-premises servers.
- Both IT and the broader business gained increased confidence in their IT infrastructure.
- The transition to the cloud also contributed to a more sustainable solution with reduced CO2 emissions.
- Eastlight's internal IT teams continue to enhance their cloud skills and experience.

What is next for Eastlight Community Homes?

- Continuously modernise to harness data and unleash the potential of GEN-AI.
- Continue to optimise and right-size cloud reducing costs.
- Transition suitable applications to SaaS platforms.
- Enhance monitoring and disaster recovery capabilities for efficient environment management.
- Explore opportunities to further reduce CO2 emissions for enhanced sustainability.


Jon Milne, Technology Director at Eastlight Community Homes said this about the migration project.

“ At the outset of our cloud transformation journey, we explored our options. We chose Digital Space to lead our initial cloud discovery exercise, which instilled confidence and trust in their expertise and proven track record. Adopting AWS through Digital Space has significantly enhanced our data accessibility, business resilience, and security posture. This transition has empowered us with enriched data insights, promptly utilised to enhance our valued customers' experiences. We eagerly anticipate continuing our cloud transformation journey with Digital Space.”



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