JWS Accelerates Cloud Migration To Enable Secure Access Anywhere

Johnson Winter and Slattery (JWS) is a leading independent law firm engaged by major businesses, investment funds and government agencies on important transactions and disputes in Australia and surrounding regions. The firm has 65 partners nationally, supported by more than 250 lawyers, in five major cities.

In a sector known for conservatism, JWS stands out as a visionary based on how it manages its business-critical technology systems. In 2017, the firm turned to the cloud to reduce operational overheads when managing and maintaining business systems, and to improve operational agility and innovation within the organisation.

When COVID-19 lockdowns occurred, the firm’s forward planning meant that it had the key solutions it needed to quickly implement remote working.

Business needs

- JWS needed to convert legacy and on-premise infrastructure to a cloud-centric approach while securely migrating communications and workflow to the cloud, and ensuring data stewardship adheres to the solicitor’s code of conduct.
- It was strategically important for the firm that any technology-led change was driving a commercial or impactful business outcome, such as improving the ability to access and share data so lawyers and support staff could work more efficiently.
- JWS wanted to accelerate the rollout of key solutions that would enable secure, remote work from anywhere, and reduce the disruption of COVID-19 related-lockdowns.

Impact

- VMware Cloud™ on AWS allowed JWS to run production applications across VMware vSphere®-based private, public and hybrid cloud environments, enabling the firm to access and secure its data without on-premise, physical data centres.
- Despite COVID-19 restrictions, VMware Horizon® meant the firm could provide continuity to its clients, empowering employees to work remotely and securely without traditional VPN dependencies, complexities, and scale limitations. Client data remained safe even when accessed remotely through VMware Workspace ONE® managed devices, both company-owned and Bring Your Own Device.
- VMware SD-WAN™ has improved the employee user experience with secure access to virtual desktops and apps through Horizon, and provides business continuity to the firm, allowing it to rapidly deploy dedicated connectivity to its VMware Cloud solution. This proved worthwhile when an outage in Perth was resolved within 30 minutes.
- JWS challenged VMware to accelerate its solution implementation. The migration was planned to take nine months, but VMware Professional Services delivered in two weeks, allowing JWS to reap the benefits of its cloud investment sooner than anticipated.
- JWS predicts this cloud migration will save the firm A$750,000 in three years.
- VMware solutions give JWS the freedom to scale-up and scale-down its business processes seamlessly, enabling it to easily adapt to future developments.

"When lockdown occurred, people simply worked remotely without change to workflows or processes. We migrated large chunks of our central processing, our servers, databases, front end servers, and we didn’t skip a beat, not even behind the scenes. Nobody was the wiser.”

ROSS FORGIONE
Chief Information Officer
Johnson Winter & Slattery