

Case Study: Northern Ireland Screen

The Customer

Northern Ireland Screen is the national screen agency for Northern Ireland, maximising the economic, cultural and educational value of the screen industries. The agency's Heritage & Archive Department manages a collection of historical media and film footage stretching back to 1897 and works to preserve and promote Northern Ireland's screen culture.

Our Relationship

Northern Ireland Screen engaged transACT Technology Solutions to design and deliver an optimised solution for migrating data from on-premise legacy storage devices to AWS cloud.

Business Challenges

Northern Ireland Screen's Heritage & Archive Department maintains, manages and provides access to an extensive collection of TV and film content. In migrating this from legacy hardware to a modern cloud environment, the integrity of the data was of utmost importance.

“ The AWS solution from transACT just made sense to us. In terms of scalability, sustainability, cost, and functionality, it was just the pragmatic choice. ”

Francis Jones, Head of Heritage & Archive, Northern Ireland Screen





It was really smooth – transACT just took all the pain out of the process, the team there were so supportive and easy to work with.



Business Challenges

Northern Ireland Screen's Heritage & Archive Department is responsible for approximately 300TB of video data, which includes recent productions, as well as newsreels, documentaries, animation and even historically significant amateur footage. This archive contains well over a hundred years' worth of culturally important media and film footage.

Previously this had been stored on physical devices housed at Northern Ireland Screen's Belfast office, an approach dating from the original digitalisation of the archive in the pre-cloud era.

The team was keen to take advantage of evolving technology to prepare for a future of large files, more new production, and further digitalisation of historical media, as well as to ensure the long-term safety of the data.

Having made the decision to migrate, the organisation set a tight schedule in which to move data to an AWS environment. With a lean team, focused entirely on delivering on the organisation's remit, Northern Ireland Screen had no time to spare, so it was important that the migration could be executed as rapidly and as smoothly as possible.

With the irreplaceable nature of some of the content, the integrity of the data was a top priority. The transACT team put together a comprehensive project plan – including the purchase of brand-new network switches specifically for the data ingest operation.

Solutions

Northern Ireland Screen's Heritage & Archive Department maintains, manages and provides access to an extensive collection of TV and film content. transACT's Archive Migration Service securely recovered decades of data and media files from legacy hardware and migrated them to AWS fully maintaining the integrity of the data.

transACT used an AWS Snowball portable physical device to overcome the limitations of the existing networks, and quickly ingest data from the existing hardware, before it was securely uploaded into AWS. In order to minimise any risks, the transACT team worked closely with Northern Ireland Screen to understand the security and access needs of the organisation, and put in place a robust Identity and Access Management framework, before moving any data.

As well as taking advantage of the flexibility offered by S3 storage, using AWS allowed less frequently accessed data to be stored in S3 Glacier, significantly reducing the overall costs for the system.

With decades of data and media files successfully migrated to AWS, Northern Ireland Screen's Heritage & Archive team required visibility of their cloud estate, and implemented transACT's Cloud Management Portal (TCMP), transACT's proprietary analytics and reporting dashboard. TCMP provides Northern Ireland Screen with industry-leading visibility into cloud usage and costs.

Working Together

As a long-standing and highly trusted AWS partner on multiple programmes, transACT was able to make sure that the project took full advantage of all the benefits of working with AWS technology. This ensured that there were no unwarranted delays in the project and that the tight schedule that Northern Ireland Screen had specified was adhered to.

With deep experience in this type of project, transACT was able to work with Northern Ireland Screen's Heritage & Archive team to understand the day-to-day needs of the organisation, as well as the skills within the team. This ensured that the new solution would integrate seamlessly into the operation, and that there would be no unexpected or undue demands on the team's time. Further to that, as an accredited AWS Training Partner, transACT was able to provide additional skills training to the Northern Ireland Screen team, enabling them to get full value from the new technology from day one.

On a tight schedule, transACT understood Northern Ireland Screen's sense of urgency, and were able to accelerate some elements of the project plan where needed, executing with no unanticipated delays.

Outcomes

The security of the AWS contract structure means that Northern Ireland Screen can count on ongoing budget predictability, as well as benefiting from AWS's long-term sustainability programme.

The more flexible, accessible and secure cloud data storage means that Northern Ireland Screen's Heritage & Archive department can continue to provide an effective, seamless service to its stakeholders, that offers a robust foundation for future developments, including the implementation of Generative-AI solutions.

With the new storage offering the potential for improved data discoverability, the technology transformation will also fuel Northern Ireland Screen's work to support education and community projects. This includes university research and school curricula, in Northern Ireland, across the UK and internationally.

The migration was completed well within the 30-day deadline that Northern Ireland Screen had set, resulting in negligible disruption for the business, and ensuring that the in-house technology team could get on with what they do best – supporting one of the most vibrant screen industries in Europe.



- Immersion Day
- Amazon RDS Delivery
- AWS Lambda Delivery
- Amazon QuickSight Delivery
- Storage Services Competency

Why Amazon Web Services?

Architected to be the most flexible and secure cloud computing environment available today, Amazon Web Services (AWS) is the world's most comprehensive and broadly adopted cloud platform, offering over 200 fully featured services from data centres globally.

Products

Amazon S3, Amazon S3 Glacier, Amazon Snowball, transACT Archive Migration Service, transACT Cloud Management Portal



Amazon Simple Storage Service (S3)



Amazon S3 Glacier



Amazon Snowball



transACT Archive Migration Service



transACT Cloud Management Portal (TCMP)

- Migration Services Competency
- Well-Architected Partner Program
- Select Tier Training
- Data & Analytics Services Competency
- AWS Marketplace Skilled Consulting Partner
- Solution Provider

