CirrusHQ and AWS transform a cyber-attack into a positive outcome for Nottingham College.



About Nottingham College

Nottingham College is one of the largest further education and higher education colleges in the United Kingdom. Based in the city of Nottingham in England, it provides education and training from pre-entry through to university-degree level at its 10 centres in the city and around Nottinghamshire.

The Challenge

Given the aging nature of their infrastructure Nottingham College was looking at key strategic milestones and solutions to manage hybrid solutions as they transitioned to their vision of being Cloud First. During this review, the College repelled a cyber attack and as their data was only being backed up to secure locations locally they had to ensure their data couldn't be encrypted if further attacks occurred. Therefore, Nottingham College, at pace needed to create a Cloud backup of all their data and transform their disaster recovery process.

The Solution

In conjunction with AWS and CirrusHQ, within hours of the initial attack data was being backed up to the AWS Cloud and after a month any hyper-care post project was removed and a transformed infrastructure landscape put the College back in control.

Nottingham College gained the ability to save backups, which were immutable on AWS, with the flexibility to restore in situ, across various campuses, or on AWS. This resulted in maintaining integrity of the data and placed Nottingham College in a position of strength when in a disaster recovery situation.

The Benefits

Security confidence

More performant, robust and future proofed security.

Robust business continuity

Tested and repeatable recovery process for minimal business impact.

Refined Cloud strategy

Security transformation confirmed the Cloud First strategy.

About APN Partner CirrusHQ and Amazon Web Services

Nottingham College was undertaking a large-scale review of its infrastructure landscape, as part of due diligence, at looking at multiple Cloud vendors and key frameworks, including OCRE and OGVA. As a leading AWS Education Certified Partner, CirrusHQ were working in conjunction with AWS and the College to review their landscape, when the cyber attack occurred.

Next Steps

The experience from the attack gave Nottingham College the ability to drive their IT strategy forward with greater knowledge, security, and further forward, plus demonstrating that a Cloud First strategy is the right direction for the College. To learn more about how AWS and APN Partner CirrusHQ can help your organisation, visit www.cirrushq.com.

> *"Working with CirrusHQ has been refreshing, not only do they possess expert level knowledge of the product, they are extremely customer centric, and that is a perfect combo."*
>
> **Mohammed Shiffa**
> **IT Manager Infrastructure and Applications**
> **Nottingham College**

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