

Some Light in the Cloud - Azure at Cambridge Enterprise

TechLink Community

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Dr Paul SeabrightDeputy Director, Cambridge Enterprise

Cambridge Enterprise Limited - context





Cambridge Enterprise





Cambridge Enterprise Services include:

Consultancy Services: a support service to enable staff and research groups to provide expert advice and solve problems for external organisations worldwide.

[Services: fee arrangement, contract negotiation, fee collection and distribution are provided through a subsidiary Cambridge University Technical Services Limited.]

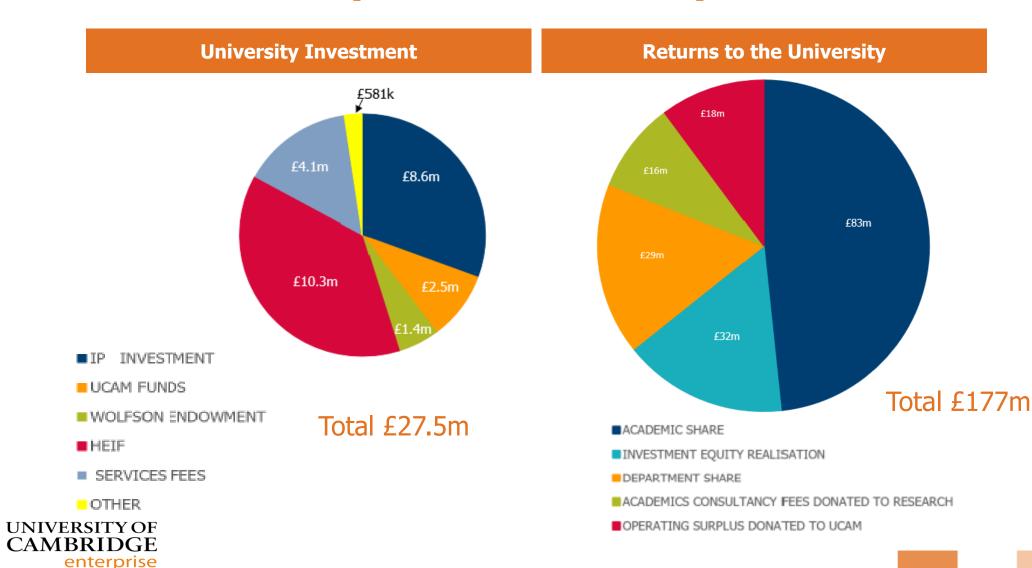
- Research tools: Non-exclusive licensing of software, antibodies, proteins, DNA/RNA and model organisms.
- **Technology Licencing:** Identification of research outputs with commercial potential; IP evaluation, registration & maintenance; proof of concept development funding; IP out-licensing to a commercialisation partner.
- Seed Funds Venture Services: Business creation: business planning, mentoring, management identification, seed funding (£1m per spin-out), access to follow-on funding; introduction to national & international investors networks.

[£30m seed fund held by the University is manged by Cambridge Enterprise Ltd]

- AHSS: dedicated service supporting innovation and developing new commercialisation routes (Social Enterprises & Social Ventures Fund)
- International outreach: providing practitioner led training to HEI's new to the KE sector.



Cambridge Enterprise Funding & Returns (2006/7-2019/20)



2016 University Survey & Faculty Customer Journey Review

- Only working with 25% of faculty & researchers;
- Word of Mouth most effective marketing tool
- Returning inventors have a significantly better experience
- Lack of transparency inventors and creators unaware progress
- TT staff spend significant time educating inventors & providing data
- Peripheral agreements (e.g. CDA's) too resource intensive

Five Year Strategy

- Efficiency reach more with the same resource
- Marketing CRM (Data Protection compliance), better digital marketing capability
- Self-service tools
 - on-line training and educational material
 - develop self–service CDA process
 - Academic Portal with access to automated 'real-time' project data



CDA = NDA = Confidentiality agreement

IT infrastructure issues 2016

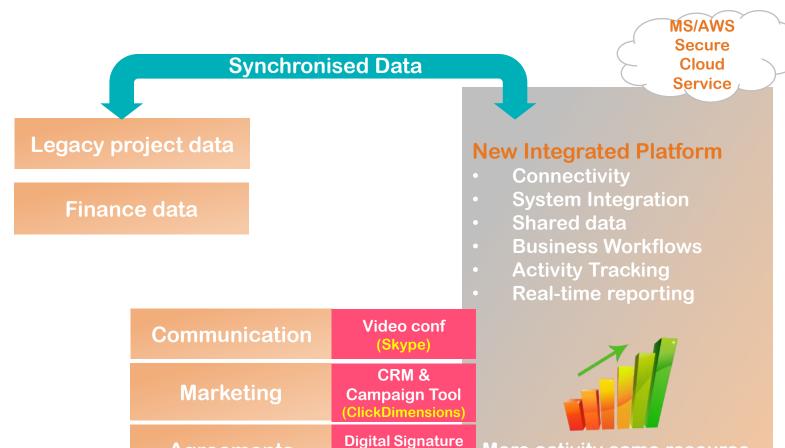
- Data storage capacity nearing limits
- Poor off-site connectivity (CUH, SBC, etc.) and data availability from on-premise servers
- Mobile device access issues
- Majority desktop workstations
- Minimal access to video conferencing
- No CRM and limited digital marketing capability
- Ageing project management database with no API
- Reporting only simple KPIs reported monthly, slow and resource intensive



Planned reconfiguration to Cloud Based System

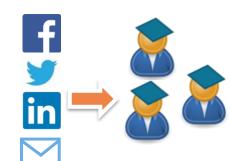
Agreements

Future



(DocuSign)

Portal







Website



3rd Party Data In

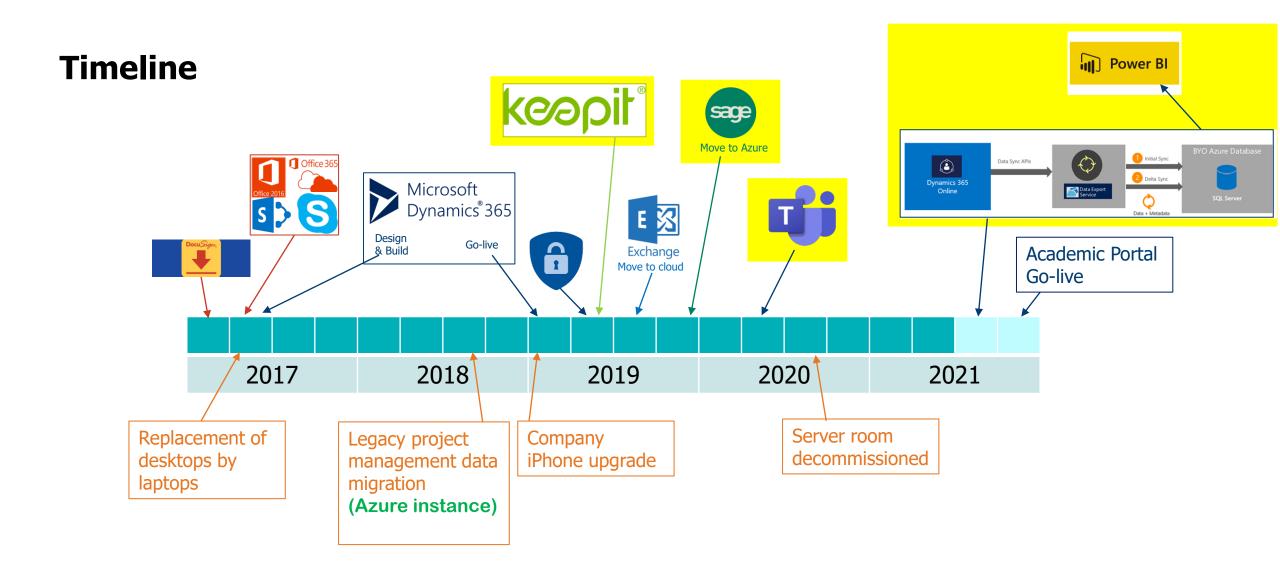




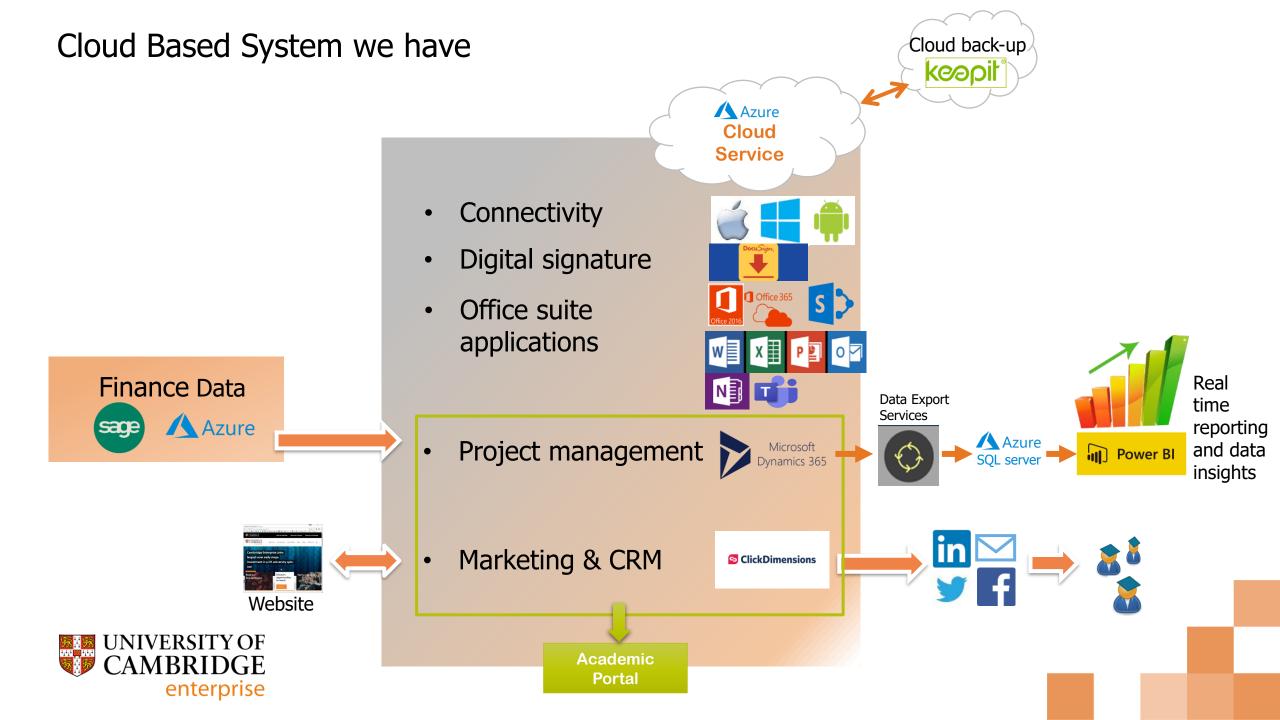












Learning

Resistance to change

- Fear can be real, detractors may need management, some staff may leave
- Identify early adopters and influencers to achieve the tipping point
- Engagement through consultation, communicating the benefits and training are vital
- Transition is difficult and can be stressful for staff and IT teams alike
- Constant change requires a cultural adaptation which can be slow
- Flexibility and readiness to review decisions and reformulate plans are key

Dynamics 365

- Data hygiene clean before migration
- Business process clarify and simplify (95% of processes is probably sufficient), Change requests are expensive
- Vendor selection & management is critical
 - Internal SME manage the contractors and keep them honest
 - UAT Agile can mean a lack of QC, requires considerable -internal resource
 - Training provided is often inadequate show and tell
- Design, build implementation £480k



Outcomes

- IT team resource increased 70% (+2 FTE)
- Operational cost (excluding staff) £150k p.a.
- Licensing is fluid and needs continual monitoring
- Data storage needs constant review (storing data in applications is expensive)
- System updates are frequent (weekly)
- Capital expenditure avoidance (£100k's to refresh infrastructure)
- Positive environmental impact (no onsite servers, UPS or Air Con; space released for other uses)
- Seamless transition to remote working





"It ought to be remembered that there is nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct, or more uncertain in its success, than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things. Because the innovator has for enemies all those who have done well under the old conditions, and lukewarm defenders in those who may do well under the new. This coolness arises partly from fear of the opponents, who have the laws on their side, and partly from the incredulity of men, who do not readily believe in new things until they have had a long experience of them."

Niccolo Machiavelli



