

Case Study: Catalyst Commodities Ltd

Developing a new application for the cloud, Catalyst Commodities approached Cloud Fundamental to create development/test and production environments on AWS.

Client

Catalyst Commodities provide forecasting data on UK power prices and fundamentals in the market.

Specific Challenge

As a processor of large volumes of data, Catalyst needed to allow secure customer access to their solution whilst also keeping it performant.

Solution Summary

To design and deliver new web application infrastructure within the AWS London Region.

Outcome

A scalable, secure and flexible hosting platform with future options for scalability and automation.



Catalyst Commodities

Catalyst Commodities was launched in 2014 to be focused solely on commercial and credible UK power price prediction.

With an average of 20 years experience across its partners, Catalyst Commodities is solely-focused on UK power and its influences.

Having a proven model and commercial experience which are key to a credible prediction, their UK power market expertise is second-to-none.

Catalyst's market-leading UK power model and in-house expertise drives a number of reports, depending on the time horizon.

The Requirement

Catalyst Commodities were developing a new web-based application which was largely based upon legacy functionality.

Without the baggage of a legacy infrastructure Catalyst readily adopted a cloud-first strategy.

The Challenge

Creating an infrastructure for a new application where the customer demand and performance needs were unknown.

The solution needed to be secure and have the flexibility to scale as necessary based upon usage.





Solution Considerations

There were many considerations when designing the solution for Catalyst Commodities.

Some of the important goals are listed below:

- **Secure access**

Staff and developers at Catalyst required access to the cloud-based infrastructure including remote desktop access and database transfers and queries.

New business and release control processes were needed to cope with the separation between development/test and production cloud environments.

- **Performance**

Whilst wanting the system to be responsive, Catalyst also wanted to operate using the correct/minimum instance types.

Careful consideration was given to the instance types used and families were switched based upon initial and subsequent testing results.

- **User security**

End users of the system required secure logon access to the application and also the ability to perform secure FTP transfers.

Consideration was given to the best way to allow access whilst protecting the solution and the individual users.

- **Database requirements**

The solution required a back-end database, this started as MS SQL Server but was migrated firstly to MySQL and then to Aurora RDS.

Solution Architecture

Catalyst Commodities engaged Cloud Fundamental to discuss the technical requirements for their new forecasting application. In-depth discussions were undertaken regarding the application architecture during which it was discovered that significant design changes would be necessary for the application to take advantage of the cloud platform.

Both development and production environments would need to be provisioned while allowing for strict separation and change management.

Solution Implementation

Cloud Fundamental designed and built secure development and production platforms for the forecasting application in the AWS London Region which offered security, flexibility and future scalability.

An Established Team

Thanks to the success of the implementation and support services, Cloud Fundamental are now a trusted partner of Catalyst Commodities and are currently involved in the delivery of support services for their internal and externally hosted virtual environments.

Amazon Web Services

AWS has more than 15 years' experience in delivering global infrastructure on a large scale. In 2017, they launched a UK-based Region.

Cloud Fundamental with their experience of AWS and traditional hosting models, became an AWS certified partner – cementing their place as a UK leader in cloud migration within secure environments.

Solution Benefits

- Ability to adjust capacity on demand with 'Pay as you go' pricing
- A performant and scalable platform
- Minimal administration
- Security for the application and platform
- No hardware management

"Cloud Fundamental provided invaluable support and helped us migrate our legacy system to the cloud. They designed and implemented reliable and efficient AWS solution that will enable us to take on new challenges and grow our business. "

Jaka Stiglic
Senior Analyst, Catalyst Commodities.



About Cloud Fundamental

Cloud Fundamental's reputation and continued success is the result of unrivalled technical expertise in the design and implementation of secure solutions in both the private and public sector. Their technical team has a wealth of experience honed over several decades and are recognized for their successful implementations and unsurpassed service levels.

As an AWS Certified Partner, they specialise in delivering secure, public cloud deployments - from small scale cloud pilots to phased mass migration. Able to work to strict timeframes and within tight budgets, their services range from initial technical guidance and advice to end delivery of full cloud migrations.

Dedication, commitment and flexibility are the cornerstone of Cloud Fundamental's approach, ensuring they are the preferred business partner on an increasing number of cloud migrations..

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