

Open Universities Australia partners with BASE2 to transform their digital platform

I believe BASE2 was instrumental in the success of the project. In particular, their expertise and experience on the AWS platform, their proactive and dedicated people and their flexible service model contributed greatly to the success of the project.

Srini Nori, Manager - Design, Development & Implementation, OUA



The Results

OUA saved 3 times their potential costs by utilising BASE2 rather than independent contractors, benefiting from a team working with them rather than for them

35% overall cost saving in the running of the platform mainly through reduced cost for compute and storage

Data Lake enables OUA to discover new business opportunities and trends using AI and Machine Learning

Massive increase in deployment frequency from monthly to daily deployments with 200+ releases in the first 3 months – meaning more new features, faster, with lower risk

Drastic increase in OUA's ability to scale the infrastructure during the enrolment period, scaling to 3x their usual capacity within 30 minutes

20%

STUDENT GROWTH COMPARED TO 2017 ENROLMENTS, AFTER 20 QUARTERS OF DECLINE

93%

REDUCTION IN ONBOARDING TIME OF NEW UNIVERSITIES, DOWN FROM 8 MONTHS TO 2 WEEKS

73%

REDUCTION OF OUA'S OVERALL SPEND ON INTEGRATION

A bit about Open Universities Australia

Open Universities Australia (OUA) is an online marketplace for higher education that provides students with access to universities from all over Australia. OUA was started by seven leading Australian-based universities and has become the destination for online higher education, currently offering courses from 12 different institutions. University partners benefit from OUA's national digital sales and marketing channels, as well as a managed service for ongoing student enrolment and management.

What they needed

OUA changed their business strategy in 2016, from having multiple businesses supporting different levels of education, to a single platform strategy, solely focused on higher education. To achieve this, as a completely online-based entity, OUA needed to bring all their core IT services and systems to one streamlined platform, allowing the business to leverage new opportunities for growth, new potential markets, and to increase provider revenue streams.

This digital transformation was by far the biggest and most important project OUA had undertaken since its inception. The transformation was business-critical and needed to be fully implemented in a very short timeframe and by an immovable delivery date, the 2018 academic enrolment deadline.

In order to achieve their goal, OUA wanted to combine AWS and Salesforce in one fully functioning platform while replacing every system the business uses with newer, more agile systems. OUA had utilised some AWS services prior, however in the approach to the redesign, OUA decided to commit entirely to AWS, and use extensive automation and serverless technology to increase efficiency and cost effectiveness. OUA needed a technical partner with extensive experience on the AWS platform, DevOps and automation but also with the ability to manage different stakeholders of a big project in a collaborative and efficient way.

What BASE2 delivered

As part of our DevOps as a Service model, BASE2 contributed and collaborated with the OUA team right from the beginning. BASE2 were responsible for creating the overarching infrastructure architecture, the complete CI/CD processes for all products, the integration architecture, as well as the deployment and management of that architecture. We also provided guidance to all responsible stakeholders in relation to deployment and scalability, as well as management and 24/7 support of the entire system as an ongoing service.

BASE2's team worked closely with the OUA team, and six technology partners throughout the redesign. We helped to identify key opportunities to innovate and fully utilise the AWS and automation potential, optimising from the previous landscape. BASE2 implemented new tools, technologies and DevOps processes, whilst concurrently upskilling OUA's internal team and that of the six other technology partners.

Our DevOps as a Service model complemented OUA's new business strategy, as in addition to covering all phases of the onboarding and implementation of the project, BASE2 will also continue to provide ongoing engagement and improvements, as well as 24/7 support of the solution's infrastructure and deployments. This incredible digital transformation completely transformed the way OUA does business, which as a result introduced some unique challenges that required a great deal of innovation.

What BASE2 delivered

Key innovations we implemented:

- Implementation of one **overarching Continuous Integration and Deployment (CI/CD) process** to release changes across multiple applications and products with one execution step, and a synchronised rollback of all applications if any individual application fails – all at enterprise level
- Throughout the project the OUA project teams had the ability to **auto-provision whole environments on demand** giving them great flexibility to continuously test all software components independently of other aspects of the project
- Implementation of **Hybrid Data Lake**, meaning all data is found in one place, is the first building block to using AI and Machine Learning for OUA
- Integration of all communications between applications following a central standard, that is based on **serverless and microservices technology**, reducing OUA's overall spend on integration by 73%
- Implementation of **auto-scaling**, i.e. OUA can now scale the entire platform, both back end and front end. This was achieved by enforcing certain architectural patterns with the technology partners to ensure the overall scalability of the entire platform was maintained at all times
- Implementation of **Security** throughout all areas of the project, including AWS WAF, whilst adhering to the PCI compliance requirements of the business and associated applications

About Us

BASE2 has been at the forefront of cloud-native solutions for almost 20 years, delivering hundreds of innovative and successful cloud deployments across a broad range of industries. We believe in agile, scalable and secure solutions that adapt and evolve with your business needs.

Your ongoing success is our success.

As an AWS Advanced Consulting Partner with certified DevOps and SaaS competency, our team members are skilled in the implementation, management, operations, maintenance and support of leading cloud systems with a focus on providing our clients with security, automation, scalability and recovery features. Our extensive knowledge and experience with cloud applications and their development make deployments an easy and affordable process for our clients. Our methodology, demonstrated results and commitment to data security have made us a trusted partner for our numerous international customers.

BASE2 is ISO/IEC 27001:2013 certified for its information security management system (ISMS) for cloud development and operations, and is CPS 234 compliant.

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