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Case Study



Euro Car Parts drive better business decisions with intelligent data.

Background.

Euro Car Parts (ECP) is the UK's leading distributor of parts for all makes of cars and light commercial vehicles supplying over 130,000 different stocked parts. In order to maintain a consistent supply of original quality parts, they operate their own sourcing and shipping operations as well as receiving direct supply agreements with the factories producing many of the world's best brands.

The Challenge.

ECP had grown to become the UK's leading Car Parts brand, however with the emergence of driverless cars, increasing popularity of car sharing and continually improving public transport, ECP needed to ensure the organisation could make cost savings and increase efficiencies to help future-proof the business.

The organisation stored every car part for almost every model of vehicle in the UK. They stored these parts in numerous warehouses around UK. This however, was an extremely costly commitment and as a result, ECP had accumulated a significant number of overstocked parts.

As a result, the company wanted to make efficiency gains by gathering intelligent data to enable them to make predications on which regions of the UK were more likely to need specific parts at any given time.

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Gareth White
Senior IT Manager



ECP had already collated years’ worth of data but this was fragmented and stored across a number of different systems, making it impossible to extract meaningful information. Moving forwards, they wanted to be able to process this data in a cloud environment that could offer flexibility and scalability to enable them to analyse and compare data to provide real-time updates on stock availability as well as ensure they were purchasing the right products at the right time and for the best price.

The organisation worked alongside Newcastle University to write advanced big data algorithms to collate and process both structured and unstructured data that would enable them to make accurate predictions. The company wanted to exercise scale and agility and required a cloud-based data analytics platform suitable for developing these new data mining techniques.

The Solution.

ANS implemented a Microsoft Azure platform to provide an environment that would allow ECP to ingest large amounts of data for analysis.

The project was delivered utilising the Start framework which is ANS’ initial design and configuration service which reduces the risk of adopting public cloud. ANS delivered a production ready platform with the design and implementation of hybrid elements and the initial controls and security.

As part of the scope of works, ANS designed, implemented and documented the network topology for the new Azure Capability. Ensuring the correct network configuration across the Azure platform and inter site connectivity was critical to ensuring that services performed as expected, connectivity is stable, and costs are as efficient as possible.

The organisation also required secure access via a remote desktop service, and also to control the access needed for Newcastle university to enable them to write the advanced big data algorithms. Each part of the solution is independently scalable to allow for the expected growth of the platform.

The Outcomes.

As a direct result of this project’s success in the UK and Ireland, ECP are now looking into Phase 2. Phase 2 would see the environment being expanded and developed to accommodate data and analytics from their Sister companies in Europe with a view to enhancing the value and significance of the data as to the operations.



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ANS are continuing to work with ECP to further develop the platform. ECP has also invested in ANS' Managed Cloud Service which is enabling them to get the most out of their public cloud investment. With ANS' 24x7x365 monitoring and support services, technical expertise and management, ECP will continue to increase operational value while receiving financial insights over the life of their service.

Commenting on the partnership, Gareth White, Senior IT Manager at Euro Car Parts, said: “Every industry is experiencing huge digital transformation but ECP are already ahead of the game, we're really pushing tech boundaries. By investing in Public Cloud with the support of ANS, we'll gain a deeper insight into our business than we ever thought possible just a few years ago. Having previously worked with ANS, we knew we could rely on them to provide a first-class service to support both the strategy and execution of Microsoft Azure.”