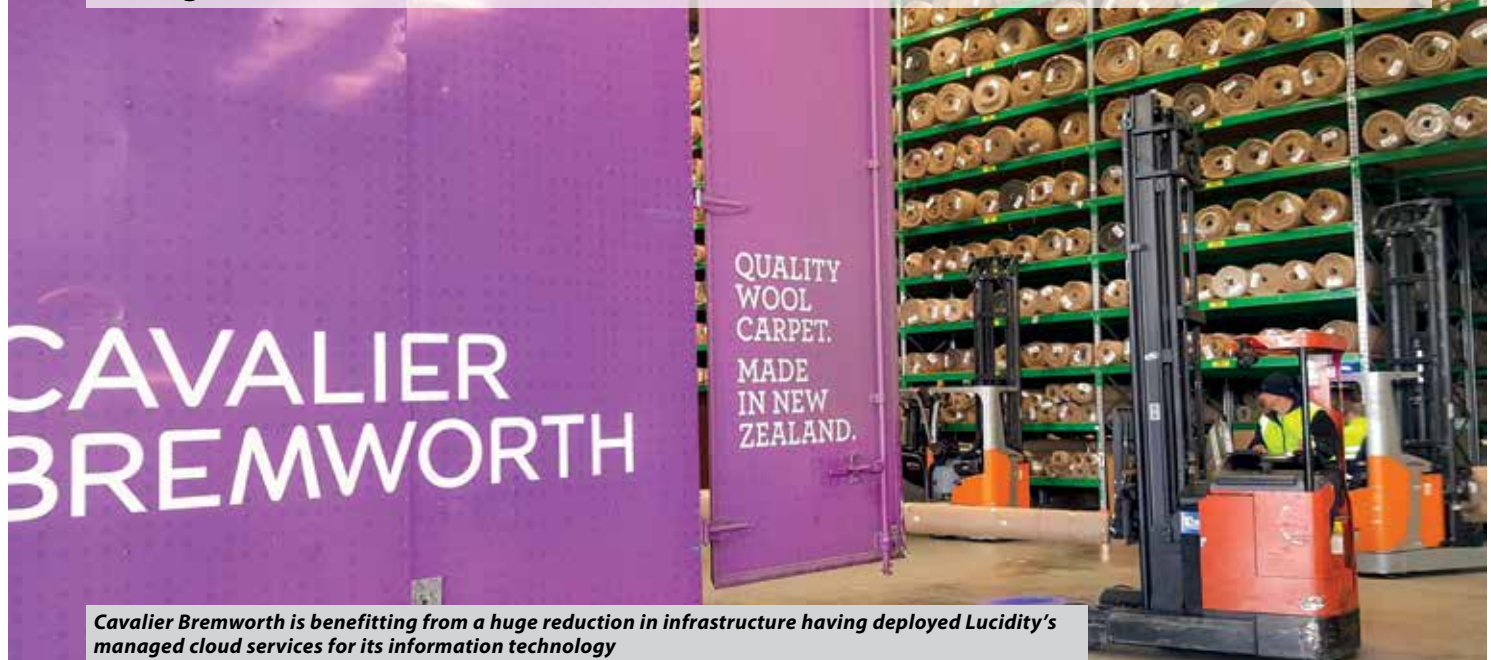


Cost savings, flexible working and security – why Cavalier Bremworth moved to the cloud



Cavalier Bremworth is benefitting from a huge reduction in infrastructure having deployed Lucidity's managed cloud services for its information technology

The term 'cloud' is much touted and overused, but in real terms, cloud technology is delivering tangible financial and operational benefits to businesses in the distribution and logistics sector.

With two carpet manufacturing plants in New Zealand, sales offices in Australia, Canada and Asia, and exports around the world, Cavalier Bremworth, owned by Cavalier Corporation, has recently been awarded New Zealand's most trusted carpet brand.

Two years ago, following considerations around how to best meet its constantly changing business and IT requirements, along with costly IT infrastructure and a need for advanced disaster recovery capabilities, Cavalier Bremworth decided to undergo an IT transformation and move to a cloud-managed IT services model.

The business engaged the services of Fuji Xerox, who referred them to Lucidity, an Auckland-based provider of managed cloud services and the recent winner of the Microsoft New Zealand 2017 Managed Service Partner of the Year Award.

IT challenges

The challenges facing Cavalier Bremworth included a growing demand for IT on a 24/7 basis for all levels of the business – from shop floors and distribution centres through to the sales and financial executives – as well as

affordable infrastructure.

Traditional IT implementation and costs typically encompass server infrastructure, desktop PCs and laptop ownership, software licensing and compliance, backup and disaster recovery systems, network connectivity and technical support staff costs.

The fact is that there is either a very high cost of ownership of IT, or a very high risk of failure in most IT project deployments. Regardless of company size, it is extremely difficult to get good utilisation and performance at a reasonable cost per user.

The managed solution

The alternative to managing IT in-house is a managed IT services model where businesses can outsource as much or as little of their IT as required.

Managed service providers manage their customers' computing, storage, networks and operating systems, meaning that a business can reap the benefits of the cloud without the administrative burden of maintaining and managing its own cloud deployment. The approach helps to establish the most ideal configuration of secure on-premises and cloud infrastructure, while offering security and technical expertise that may be lacking internally.

Cloud-managed service providers such as Lucidity are helping organisations to reduce overall IT costs and increase efficiency on multiple levels by eliminating

many of the challenges of running an internal IT function.

Lucidity's flagship product is Managed Desktop, a virtual desktop in the cloud that feels and behaves like a Windows PC and runs all normal business applications, as well as the latest Microsoft Office technologies. User desktops and mail services are delivered from Lucidity's New Zealand data centres as a cloud service that encompasses 24/7 helpdesk support.

As a cloud-based platform that eliminates the need for onsite servers, Managed Desktop also removes dependency on local PCs, liberating staff to work from anywhere. Each user simply connects securely to their remote desktop over the internet.

IT efficiencies

Cavalier Bremworth has over 150 users across Australasia using the Managed Desktop platform. "The main advantage since deploying Lucidity's managed cloud services is the huge reduction in infrastructure that is no longer needed in-house and the associated cost savings," says Cavalier Bremworth information services manager Trevor Jones.

"Using cloud-based architecture, we can now securely deliver a full suite of applications to devices anywhere in the world that have an internet connection. This is a major benefit when it comes to working remotely across our dispersed locations.

"In terms of infrastructure, only a

basic browser and a thin client application is required, which means the end-user device needs very little computing power itself, and is therefore relatively inexpensive," he continues. "Furthermore, traditional and costly private wide area networks (WANS) can be swapped for less expensive pure internet connections."

The cloud also allows Cavalier Bremworth's IT to be much more scalable – for example, the ability to ramp server storage requirements up and down, as well as the processing power needed to handle big data volume, is now a very simple, quick and cost-effective process, both from a licensing and hardware perspective.

"The IT support service is also huge for us as it means we don't need an in-house IT support desk. It's taken away IT pains such as upgrading servers and renewing licences. It's also very reassuring to know that we can get 24/7 support if we need it," adds Mr Jones. "Additionally, and very importantly, our IT security has vastly improved, and with the increasing threat of cyber-attacks, data security is a priority for us. Knowing that IT specialists are ensuring patches and updates are being carried out as part of the managed service means we can be assured that in the event of a disaster, our data is securely backed up, which is of course business critical."

For further information, visit www.lucidity.co.nz