



CASE STUDY

UK Hospital Trust Improves Visibility and Control with Immutably



Business Challenge

Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust was running its data protection strategy on an industry leading backup technology and Microsoft Azure-based backup platform. While the solution provided reliable backup capabilities, the team faced increasing challenges around cost management, visibility, and disaster recovery flexibility.

One of the organisation's biggest challenges was understanding and controlling backup costs. Storage usage, cloud archiving, and data retrieval charges made costs difficult to predict, while limited visibility into how storage was being used created further uncertainty.

The team also wanted to replicate backups between on-premises locations to strengthen disaster recovery capabilities, but the cost of licensing and infrastructure made this difficult to achieve with their existing solution.

In addition, they needed greater visibility into backup performance, recovery processes, and immutability. Limited recovery testing and a lack of insight into the underlying technology made it challenging to demonstrate compliance to auditors and establish realistic Recovery Time Objectives (RTOs).

Solution

Epaton worked with the customer to produce a backup and recovery solution utilising the Immutably platform powered by HYCU software. Following a review of the existing backup environment, storage policies, and data protection requirements, the solution was tailored to improve resilience, reduce costs, and provide greater visibility into backup operations.

The new platform enabled direct replication between the Immutably appliances, removing the need to maintain additional Azure-based backup copies for resilience. Immutably's licensing model also helped reduce costs by only requiring licensing on the primary appliance, while the secondary replication target remained licence-free.

The solution introduced enhanced disaster recovery capabilities, including the option to recover workloads into Azure if required. Immutably's native integration with Nutanix simplified management and improved operational efficiency, while ongoing support from Epaton and Immutably ensured a smooth deployment and successful adoption of the new platform.

About the Customer

Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is the largest provider of hospital (acute) and community services for people in a wide geographical area, including East Cheshire (population 399,000) and West Cheshire and Chester boroughs (population 357,000).

Offering

Immutably Backup
Appliance & Secondary
Archive Appliance



"The biggest benefits have been the efficiency, cost savings, and the ability to do things we simply couldn't do before."

Chris Thomas,
Head of IT Infrastructure

Mid Cheshire Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust



Benefits

Significant Cost Savings

When compared against the incumbent enterprise backup platform, the customer found the Immutably solution to be significantly more cost-effective while delivering increased functionality and resilience as required by the organisation.

The organisation identified a significantly more cost-effective solution that delivered long-term value, enabling it to maximise its investment while meeting both current and future data protection requirements.

Improved Visibility and Control

The customer now has a much clearer understanding of how backup data is stored, replicated, and recovered.

Detailed reporting and logging provide greater visibility into backup operations, enabling faster troubleshooting and increased confidence in the platform. Daily management has been simplified to a quick review of backup reports, with over 99% of backup jobs completing successfully.

Improved Recovery Testing and Validation

One of the most significant operational improvements has been the ability to validate backup recoverability at scale.

The new solution has enabled the Trust to significantly expand its recovery testing capabilities, providing greater assurance that critical systems and data can be restored quickly and successfully when required.

The solution also provides valuable insight into:

- Recovery Time Objectives (RTOs)
- Restore performance
- Data growth and change rates
- Recovery expectations for individual workloads

This visibility enables the team to establish more realistic recovery targets and better understand the impact of recovery scenarios across the environment.

"I've worked with Epaton and Tom for many years and have always had a high level of confidence in the recommendations and service they provide. Their guidance throughout this project was invaluable and helped us deliver a solution that meets both our operational and strategic requirements."

Martin Dodd
Senior Infrastructure Engineer

Mid Cheshire Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

At a Glance

Metric	Outcome
Backup platform	Immutably
Backup validation	Increased from 1 VM per week to ~200 recoveries per month
Disaster recovery	Appliance replication plus Azure recovery option
Cost model	Simpler, more transparent licensing
Operational overhead	Minimal daily management
Visibility	Detailed reporting and recovery metrics
Customer confidence	Significantly improved backup and recovery assurance

Outcome: The customer achieved a more cost-effective, flexible, and transparent backup platform while gaining significantly greater confidence in recovery capabilities, disaster recovery readiness, and long-term data protection strategy.

Learn More

To learn how Immutably can help your business

visit immutably.uk

or email

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