

In the heavily regulated Financial Services industry, Bluestone innovates in the cloud

For Bluestone, operating in the competitive and lightning-speed industry of financial services means the company's IT team is constantly finding new ways of delivering services to customers. Bluestone leverages the iland Disaster-Recovery-as-a-Service solution to protect essential IT systems and ensure they continue to delight customers with innovative financial services.

business profile

With offices in the UK, Ireland and Australasia, Bluestone is at the forefront of delivering innovative financial services to customers in a rapidly changing market. Providing lending services, asset management and capital management to private and institutional investors, the passion for financial services that runs through the fast-growing company is matched by a passion for technology and how it can be used to exceed the expectations of their customers.

a need for secure, compliant DR identified

With legacy infrastructure, expiring supplier contracts and a push from the Bluestone chairman towards cloud-based applications, Krisztian Kenderesi, the head of Global IT Operations for Bluestone, turned his attention to finding a secure, cost-effective and reliable cloud-based disaster recovery solution. To assist in this search, he reached out to Behind Every Cloud (BEC), a specialized cloud consultancy group that helps companies achieve clarity, choice and control in a rapidly evolving UK IT cloud services market.

"Our IT team runs lean and mean and we don't want to hire a DR expert – for us, that expert is iland," Kenderesi said. "The iland DR solution reliably runs in the background. I know it works and I don't have to worry about the infrastructure availability and security."

Behind Every Cloud quickly identified several suitable DRaaS vendors, including iland, and performed a full evaluation and due diligence on each solution. The iland DRaaS solution scored strongly on all metrics in BEC's Clover Cloud Vendor Rating index due to its cost-effectiveness, aggressive recovery time objectives (RTOs) and recovery point objectives (RPOs), advanced security features, management capabilities and the ability to meet stringent industry compliance requirements.



profile

- ▶ SIZE: SME
- ▶ INDUSTRY: Financial Services
- ▶ SOLUTION: DRaaS on the iland cloud with advanced security built-in
- ▶ HEAD OFFICE: Cambridge, UK

challenges

- ▶ DR systems needed to match a new 'cloud-first' IT initiative
- ▶ With expiring contracts on legacy infrastructure, a new approach to DR was required
- ▶ Needed to meet Financial Conduct Authority regulations and ISO 27001 standard requirements

benefits

- ▶ Security and compliance helps meet industry regulations
- ▶ Cost-effective solution drives bottom-line benefits
- ▶ Non-intrusive DR testing ensures reliability and compliance
- ▶ Supports vendor diversity and multi-cloud strategy



industry compliance is a business imperative

While the Bluestone IT team is cloud-savvy, they are also very operationally risk-aware which is essential in an industry that is heavily regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). In addition to FCA regulations, Bluestone needs to maintain the ISO 27001 standard which has clear requirements for considering security in a Disaster Recovery environment.

“Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity Planning is an important focus in the Financial Services industry and a key priority for Bluestone – and this is being driven by the regulators,” Kenderesi said.

advanced security protects their customers

With their DR solutions running on the iland cloud with advanced security built-in, Bluestone has the assurance that whenever they need to failover, security features including vulnerability scanning, encryption, intrusion detection, anti-virus/anti-malware and more are protecting their virtual machines. On-demand security reports also are available to Kenderesi and his team at the touch of a button through the iland management console, which, along with expert guidance from the iland compliance professional services team, helps prove compliance to regulators.

cost-effectiveness and DR testing drive results

Aside from the protection and peace of mind delivered by iland’s advanced security and compliance functionality, another important benefit for Bluestone is the cost effectiveness and simple pricing of the iland solution. Because they only pay for compute resources when they require a failover, Bluestone avoids wasting IT resources and has achieved a reduction of 40% in the overall cost model of their DR solution.

Kenderesi adds, “My usability and maintenance overhead for the iland DRaaS solution is basically zero – much less than the headaches of an on-premise DR solution.”

The intuitive iland cloud management console enables the Bluestone IT team to view and manage DR resources and have all the performance, security and costing information at their fingertips. And, they perform full, non-intrusive testing of the DR solution with no impact on their operations through the console.

Kenderesi sums up the innovative approach that Bluestone is taking to IT and Disaster Recovery, “Non-IT companies, like Bluestone, don’t have the resources to be experts in all things IT. My role is shifting from being a manager of infrastructure to being a manager of services that address business challenges. To do that, I need strong service providers that I can partner with and trust – I feel in safe hands with iland.”

“Having a cloud-based disaster recovery solution that helps Bluestone to meet Financial Conduct Authority regulations and ISO 27001 standard requirements is essential. iland supports us with advanced security and compliance reporting that speeds up and simplifies our compliance processes.”

- Krisztian Kenderesi, Global Head of IT Operations

about iland

With data centers in the U.S., U.K. and Singapore, iland delivers the only enterprise cloud solutions in the market today with true innovation, transparency, intelligent management and advanced security built in. iland’s technology and consultative approach mean anyone—regardless of expertise, location or business objective – can benefit from a hassle-free cloud.

From scaling production workloads to supporting testing and development to disaster recovery, iland’s secure cloud and decades of experience mean unmatched service. iland has been recognized as Veeam’s Service Provider of the Year as well as VMware’s Service Provider Partner of the Year, Global and Americas. iland is also part of the Cisco Cloud Managed Service Provider Program for IaaS and DRaaS and partners with other industry leaders including Zerto, Trend Micro, Hytrust and Nimble Storage.