



Strategic IT Transformation Programme Delivers Next-Generation Agile IT Infrastructure with Industry-Leading Resilience for Standard Life

The strategic use of the new technology enables Standard Life's IT group to focus on generating business innovation and directly supporting business stakeholders in areas such as customer engagement while Cognizant manages the provisioning of Infrastructure as a Service.

The Challenge

Standard Life had two main challenges. The first was a desire for greater predictability of IT costs for which the company was seeking greater transparency through a consumption-based pricing model. Second, the company had critical IT infrastructure nearing obsolescence and aggressive goals for its replacement, including achieving cost benefits by limiting future capital investment and improving internal processes.

Agile infrastructure and increasing automation were key to increasing speed to market and supporting the rapid pace of business expansion. Other critical objectives included freeing the internal IT organisation to focus on strategic activities and supporting corporate sustainability objectives with a more energy-efficient data centre.

AT A GLANCE

Standard Life worked with us to deploy a private cloud infrastructure across two data centres and migrate all business services to the new infrastructure. While managing multiple third-party suppliers across communications, network and data centres, we also conducted the migration, which completed on time, with no interruptions to the business. The solution has enabled Standard Life to reduce time-to-market and capital investment, deploy a pay-per-use pricing model, and improve operational resilience to provide consistent availability of business applications.



The Solution

Standard Life brought us in to lead the complex transformation project, which would require robust management of multiple vendors, each supplying critical functionality and dependencies. The programme deadlines were extremely tight, and it was imperative that the deliverables drop, data and workload migrations occur with absolute minimal disruption to ongoing business and workflows.

Between October 2015 and June 2016 we worked with Standard Life to execute the transformation programme, providing and leading a comprehensive solution across all phases of design, build, test, implementation and migration. Additionally, we were responsible for planning, governance and management across all third-party suppliers, including telecommunications, networking and data centre vendors. This approach provided Standard Life with a single point of accountability, transparency into the project and assurance of high quality, on-time delivery of project milestones.

Our Approach

During the detailed design and planning phase, Cognizant and Standard Life quickly identified the goal of implementing a private cloud delivered using an infrastructure-as-a-service (IaaS) model as a key part of its next-generation IT infrastructure transformation programme. Drawing on its accelerators and frameworks, Cognizant developed and built a Constantly Ready Architectural Reference Model that encompassed a refresh of legacy infrastructure and IaaS-based private cloud deployment within a new-build data centre.

We led and managed all the transformation activities, including the third-party-delivered network upgrade and data center construction. We ensured Standard Life's business critical applications – mainframe transaction platforms, telephony platform, contact center, online trading systems, third-party investment links – were migrated on time without any negative effects to the business. Other key activities included hardware implementation and migrating data, 3000 workloads, servers, virtualised workstation platforms and business applications to the new IaaS platform in just 3.5 months – well within Standard Life's time window.

The solution consolidated four storage solutions used across various systems into a new, common strategic storage infrastructure. Our storage solution ensures Standard Life

meets regulatory requirements; it also enhances data security, privacy and control as well as business continuity.

We now provide infrastructure (compute, storage and associated elements) as a service to Standard Life, along with ongoing maintenance and operation of the underlying IT infrastructure, giving the company's IT group flexibility to focus on high-value activities including applications.

Standard Life now has a next-generation, constantly ready infrastructure platform that is enabling it to achieve the following:

- **Improved response time and processes:** New infrastructure requirements are rapidly provisioned using pre-provisioned infrastructure capacity. The programme has achieved operational resilience with industry-leading 99.982% availability.
- **Cost benefits:** Predictable costs are delivered through a consumption-based pricing model that encompasses compute, storage, LAN and SAN networking and hardware costs. Standard Life can now report usage and allocate costs at a granular business unit level and can consolidate these upwards to provide a single view of its infrastructure for provisioning and management. Further, capital expenditures are greatly reduced through the infrastructure-as-a-service delivery model.
- **Positioning for future success:** The implementation of hybrid cloud with options to quickly and securely access public cloud features while retaining cost transparency in the next phase ensures Standard Life business units will have the flexibility to rapidly respond to customer needs and market opportunities as they arise.

"The successful implementation of our Information Systems transformation programme has given us a single approach to provisioning and managing our strategic IT infrastructure, as well as enhanced visibility into utilisation levels and operating costs. We chose Cognizant for their proven end-to-end capabilities in implementing a modern, agile IT infrastructure that enables us to more rapidly respond to new and changing business requirements."

– Stuart Robertson, Head of IS Transformation at Standard Life.

Project Highlights:

- Next-gen constantly ready infrastructure platform delivering agility and faster time to market.
 - Greater visibility into utilisation levels and operating costs.
 - Operational resilience with 99.982% availability.
 - Migration of 3000 workloads over 3.5 months.
- Refresh of legacy infrastructure.
 - Common strategic storage infrastructure.
 - Single orchestrated view for infrastructure provisioning and management.

To learn more, please visit www.cognizant.com or e-mail CIM@cognizant.com.

ABOUT COGNIZANT

Cognizant (NASDAQ-100: CTSH) is one of the world's leading professional services companies, transforming clients' business, operating and technology models for the digital era. Our unique industry-based, consultative approach helps clients envision, build and run more innovative and efficient businesses. Headquartered in the U.S., Cognizant is ranked 230 on the Fortune 500 and is consistently listed among the most admired companies in the world. Learn how Cognizant helps clients lead with digital at www.cognizant.com or follow us [@Cognizant](https://twitter.com/Cognizant).



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