On the Shoulders of Giants
AWS Stories by Softchoice

Raising the bar for EduTech on AWS

When cloud technology starts to object

The Legal Education Organization (LEO) has long been a trusted source of continuing education for legal professionals across the United States.

Their mission is to help attorneys, paralegals and other legal experts bridge the gap between education and career. In order to enable this continued education, the LEO developed a learning platform of their own: a digital learning space where students can access courses, teleconferences, and live lectures.

Naturally, being the legal experts that they are, each of their offered courses is designed with specific CLE (Continuing Legal Education) requirements in mind, so as to adhere to the unique standard of each state's BAR association. Read as: compliance is of the utmost importance.

The innovative nature of the LEO's cloud-based learning platform, especially when remote learning is sometimes essential for working professionals, brought it immediate success.

With that success, so too came the challenges of popularity.

The surge in users attending live lectures and webcasts brought heavy traffic spikes to their platform. Unfortunately, the datacenter behind their existing cloud environment struggled to keep up, especially at peak times. Inadequate load balancers were creating traffic bottlenecks and network outages, and to make matters worse, the cloud provider overseeing the data center was often impossible to reach for support.

With systems failing and no one to turn to, the LEO began its search for a new digital environment worthy of their powerful learning platform. For help on this search, they looked to Softchoice.

No downtime, just progress

Experts in cloud infrastructure and all too familiar with what it takes to migrate and support a dynamic, high-demand platform, Softchoice was no stranger to projects of this magnitude.

With all of the LEO's needs in mind, they proposed an AWS-based solution that involved new architecture and end-to-end support throughout. Softchoice developed a plan to help the LEO migrate their platform to AWS securely, all while enabling scalability and resilience to withstand heavy user demand during peak times.

The first step was building out a production-ready AWS environment that would serve as the foundation for the LEO's platform. Softchoice's recommendation of a PCI-DSS compliant Landing Zone, a secure and scalable architecture, would allow the LEO to safely manage sensitive user information while adhering to industry best practices. The migration plan also included a two-tier web architecture to optimize performance and streamline traffic management.

Perhaps one of the elements that drove such a successful collaboration was a shared value for education. As part of their process, Softchoice provided the LEO with workshops focused on security, governance, backup, monitoring and operational best practices. These workshops equipped the LEO's team with a clear understanding of their new AWS environment and the tools they would need to manage it effectively.

100% attendance

To address the LEO's scaling issues, Softchoice designed an AWS architecture that included Elastic Beanstalk for simplified application management. This load-balancing solution enabled efficient traffic distribution and auto-scaling capabilities to accommodate spikes in user activity.

With this new setup, traffic surges—even at their peak—would no longer threaten the platform's operations. Students and lecturers would never again have to worry about missing classes, lectures, or webcasts.

Traffic concerns were a thing of the past, and the LEO was able to retrain its focus on delivering high-quality content rather than dealing with infrastructure constraints. As an added layer of protection, Softchoice incorporated caching mechanisms and an optimized database design to further enhance the responsiveness of the web applications that the LEO relied on.

This reimagined design gave the LEO the scalability and resilience they needed, transforming their user experience and future-proofing the platform against any level of expansion and growth.

Collaboration continues beyond graduation

As is always the case, Softchoice's involvement went beyond the technical implementation. The LEO gained a clear AWS strategy, roadmap and architecture that aligned with their growth objectives. The groundwork for a successful cloud migration had been laid and Softchoice had helped to eliminate - or at least circumnavigate - some of the financial constraints that the LEO faced.

To further protect the LEO's budget and investment, Softchoice arranged for AWS Proof of Concept (POC) funding, giving the LEO the peace of mind to take their new environment to trial with minimal risk. Thanks to this initiative, they were able to ensure that their new AWS solution would meet operational and financial requirements before full-scale implementation.

Lastly, to make sure everything went according to plan, Softchoice's team of engineers and subject matter experts remained on call throughout the journey to provide expert guidance and hands-on support.

A future full of new ideas

Thanks to their partnership with Softchoice, the LEO's remarkable education platform has entered a new phase of growth and learning.

By addressing the LEO's unique requirements and constraints, Softchoice has helped them realize their vision of a high-quality, reliable education platform to its fullest. Today, the LEO can focus on their core mission of empowering legal professionals to learn on their own terms, confident that their technology will support them every step of the way.

Softchoice