

# ASG DELIVERS BENCHMARK TRANSITION TO IPAAS FOR EDITH COWAN UNIVERSITY



Located in Western Australia, Edith Cowan University (ECU) has more than 30,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students. It also annually welcomes some 6000 international students originating from more than 100 countries. ECU's industry-relevant teaching and research, supportive study environment and award-winning facilities enable ECU students to thrive in the modern working environment.

## SUMMARY

As the first University in Australia to move all its data centre infrastructure to the cloud in 2016, ECU continues its transformation journey with a push to become more agile and cost effective. A key part of that journey identified by ECU was the need to introduce an enterprise integration platform leveraging the cloud – iPaaS.

## CHALLENGE

Cloud has changed how businesses operate, providing scale, cost and elasticity benefits that enable organisations to scale on demand, act with agility, and have greater control of cyber threats.

However, as more organisations switch their applications and software to the cloud (SaaS), the major challenge becomes uniting data that gets trapped in individual silos between SaaS and on-premise applications.

For Edith Cowan University (ECU), its continued move towards next generation IT meant it was managing a growing number of IT applications with complex needs, which were consuming valuable resources and delaying access to data. In particular, ECU were facing the following challenges:



THE INTEGRATION PLATFORM WAS A CRITICAL STEP IN ORDER TO ADOPT A SAAS ARCHITECTURE AND INTRODUCE NEW TECHNOLOGIES SUCH AS SALESFORCE.

- **Technical issues/constraints with existing VPN architecture** – due to the VPN architecture being initially designed for external access for end-users, and not for connectivity across cloud platforms, thus requiring large volumes of data to be transferred.
- **The ability to adopt SaaS and host applications in the cloud was limited** - due to inter-operability issues. Traditional methods of integrating applications failed due to network boundaries between on-premise networks and SaaS.

As part of the University's ongoing transformation to ensure it stays ahead of the challenging landscape in the tertiary sector and achieve its objectives to deliver greater digital experiences for its users, the University identified an opportunity to migrate its existing on-premise interfaces to a new iPaaS platform. The integration platform was a critical step in order to adopt a SaaS architecture and introduce new technologies such as Salesforce.

## MODERN INTEGRATION STRATEGY – POWERS DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Integration Platform as a Service (iPaaS) gives organisations the ability to “unlock” valuable data and allow on-premise and cloud-based SaaS applications to effectively share application data. By enabling greater data visibility and accessibility across applications, organisations are able to make better use of this data to inform business processes and decisions.

As an Oracle partner and highly experienced cloud migration and integration specialist, ASG were engaged to deliver the migration and provide the seamless integration between systems and data applications as required by the University. As part of the engagement to develop a modern integration strategy and transition ECU to an iPaaS platform, ASG delivered the following:

- Integration Training and knowledge transfer.
- Legacy Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) services upgraded to SOA12c, and then migrated to the cloud platform – SOACS.
- SOA Governance established to:
  - Define how SOA services would be requested by new projects to streamline the build.
  - Define use of a register to catalogue services to aid in re-use and discovery of services.
  - Define Service naming standards to assist with service taxonomies to aid in service re-use
  - Services aligned to Higher Education Business Reference Model (HEBRM) HEBRM model.





## ABOUT ASG

At ASG, we deliver award-winning IT business solutions for organisations who are looking to raise the bar when it comes to innovation.

With our unique design-led approach to IT, and our capability to provide complete digital transformation services – we are the genuine alternative in the IT services landscape.

Is your organisation looking to do things a little differently?

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- Definition of Developer Standards to promote service re-use, improve development time of SOA services and simplify the build using common practices.
- Design and Build of interfaces between Salesforce, Student Management System (Callista), HR system (Alesco), and SaaS services such as Experian, TryBooking, etc; and
- Go-Live Support Services.



## KEY OUTCOMES

The new iPaaS platform assisted by ASG, blends tools and services into an SOA where infrastructure, software, data, and additional operations can interact in a responsive ecosystem. This gives ECU the ability to share resources and information across applications, make improvements quickly, and deliver new services at a much faster rate than before. In addition to unlocking valuable data and simplifying the management of its applications, ECU have realised the following business benefits:

- **Lower operating costs** - through capacity deployment only as needed and elimination of infrastructure refreshes and removal of reserve capacity for DR and Performance environments;
- **Continuous Improvement program** - delivering business functionality, performance and reliability improvements.



## INTEGRATION DELIVERY PHASES



INITIATION & PLANNING	DISCOVERY/REALISATION	CONCEPTION & PLANNING	REQS & DESIGN	RELEASE MANAGEMENT & TESTING	SUPPORT TRANSITION
Business case	Define integration needs	SOA governance	IPaaS platform requirements	Testing strategy	Responsibility and ownership
Integration purpose & requirements	Proof of Concept	Standards and documentation	IPaaS platform design	Developer testing	
Identify key stakeholders	Identify strategic/tactical	Environment strategy	Interface requirements	Release management	
KPIs		Integration reference architecture	Interface design	Tools	
		Roadmap & WBS			