As a highly rated university, Loughborough needs state of the art IT to meet the needs of staff and students. When it’s data centre was coming to the end of its life, they looked to future proof their data requirements with a hybrid cloud solution, provided over the high-speed Janet network.

Loughborough University, like many research and education institutions, had a 40-year-old data centre that was coming to the end of its life. Although it had served them well, its Power Utilization Efficiency rating and limited capacity, indicated the desperate need for new equipment.

Weighing up the options

Loughborough ruled out a like-for-like full refurbishment on-site, to last them another 40 years, on the grounds of up-front cost, and not being able to predict IT growth that far ahead.

Senior managers could see the benefit of cloud, but were nervous of a rapid full move in that direction.

Instead, Loughborough opted for a middle way - hybrid cloud - offering cheap modular local capacity, provided in mini-pods, joined to a remote data centre via the Janet network.

This forward-thinking approach delivered immediate savings, and provides an adaptable, agile basis for future growth.
Selecting a supplier

Loughborough embarked on its own comprehensive procurement to select a commercial partner for this work, as this was before the formation of the Janet Cloud and Data Centre Framework. This lists Loughborough’s chosen supplier, Logicalis, along with seven others that have been pre-qualified to provide cloud services for research and education institutions.

With a connection directly from the supplier’s data centre into the Janet network, a reliable, high-speed connection was already in place. This ensures low latency, high quality, end-to-end connectivity.

Benefits of the move

By moving much of their data into the cloud, Loughborough leveraged some of the many benefits of cloud, including:

- Avoiding a multi-million pound refurbishment project
- Greater flexibility
- Utilising the latest technology
- Increasing efficiency
- Reducing their carbon footprint

Do you really need it?

Phil Richards, Director of IT, Loughborough University said:

"Do you really need to keep all that rack space on-campus via an expensive full refurbishment?"

He urges institutions to reconsider any full data centre refurbishment plans and opt for a smarter, hybrid approach instead.

Matthew Cook, Head of Network Infrastructure & Telephony at Loughborough University, said:

"Choosing a supplier who has a Janet connected data centre was essential in achieving the agility and efficiency goals of the project. We were able to flexibly move virtual systems between our data centre and the cloud in a short space of time, due to the end-to-end Janet connectivity."

Find out more

Visit www.ja.net/cloud
Call 0300 300 2212
Email service@ja.net
Tweet www.twitter.com/Janet_Cloud

“Do you really need to keep all that rack space on-campus via an expensive full refurbishment?”

Phil Richards, IT Director, Loughborough University