

Speeding efforts to collaborate in the global fight against childhood cancer

Secure data hosting and cloud connectivity provides Children's Cancer Institute with firm foundations.

Customer story snapshot

Customer: Children's Cancer Institute

Industry: Medical Research

Overview

Over 1,000 children and adolescents are diagnosed with cancer every year in Australia and sadly, on average three of these young lives will die every week. Children's Cancer Institute exists solely to put an end to childhood cancer and works with similar research institutions globally to share information and insights that will help save lives and end this scourge.

To support this critical work, the Institute partnered with Optus and Equinix to create a faster, more cost-effective and secure means of integrating and sharing data with their various collaborators around the world.

This, in turn, supports the important work that the Institute does when bringing together the brightest minds, cutting-edge technology and an unwavering determination to pioneer research that will deliver safer and more effective treatments for children with cancer.

A passion for saving young lives

Sixty years ago, cancer was nearly always a death sentence for a child. Now 8 out of 10 children survive and it is medical research leveraging technology that has made this huge

difference. The task is not easy – childhood cancer is hugely complex – but the Institute is confident that a cure will be found.

Cancer behaves differently in a child's body compared to an adult's and therefore requires different treatment. The more information researchers have access to, the better these treatment options can be. By sharing results from clinical trials with counterparts around the world, researchers aim to be able to accelerate diagnoses and personalise cures for children.

It is a battle against time and speed is of the essence.

Data, data everywhere

Key to all this is data, yet the Institute's existing in-house high-performance computing system did not scale well for the huge amounts of data they generate, store and analyse to identify trends.

While Optus had been involved with the Institute for more than 10 years in the Tour de Cure fundraising initiative, recently Optus came on board as the Institute's technology partner to provide the type of technological insights that can better support the dramatic improvements in healthcare that are happening both globally and locally.

OPTUS



Faced with the challenge of improving the speed, security and elasticity of their collaborative research model, Optus joined forces with Equinix to devise a dynamic platform that would meet the institute's needs – both today and into the future.

A cost-effective solution for connectivity and hosting that streamlines the international collaboration process.

Key elements of the platform include Equinix Data Centre hosting (secure cage) and seamless public cloud connectivity with Optus and Equinix Fabric® – critical for swift and seamless access to data via AWS and Azure for all the research institutes working together.

This technology allows rapid access to patient information, which improves the speed of consultations. It also saves significant time for health professionals, meaning that more time can be devoted to the patient's wellbeing.

Optus also worked with the Institute to provide a seamless transition to the new platform, allowing them to operate a truly 'Hybrid Cloud' by connecting existing cloud storage. The new platform was also designed to be resilient to system failure to avoid any impact on care.

Results that matter

Children's Cancer Institute's ambition is to put an end to childhood cancer and, through partnering with Optus and Equinix, the Institute today has a flexible, secure and integrated platform that allows them to easily share the data that will assist them in reaching it.

The Institute can now take the data they generate in-house and analyse it – together with results coming out of other institutes around the world – to better identify trends and patient outcomes. By bringing data from disparate locations into the same cloud environment, it will assist researchers in finding the signal amongst the noise.

Beyond technology, Optus also recognised the impact of COVID-19 on the Institute as an organisation that depends on fundraising and events to fund its research effort. With these no longer possible for much of 2020, Optus worked with the Institute on a commercial model to provide up to six months of billing relief.

A small step but an important one for an organisation that plays such a crucial role in the future of Australia's children.

All partners are fully vested in the mission of curing childhood cancer collaboration process.



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