



CASE STUDY

# Royal Holloway University of London



## Wavenet\* and HPE drive cost and efficiency savings in a first for the UK's education sector

### About the Customer

Royal Holloway University of London (RHUL) is one of the University of London's 17 member institutions, founded in 1886 to promote women's education. Today, it ranks among the top 25 universities in the UK, with nearly 12,000 students and 2,000 staff split across two main campuses in central London and Egham, Surrey.

### The Challenge

The university's legacy infrastructure sat at the heart of its IT environment, delivering critical data services to thousands of staff and students across their data centres. Over time, the university invested in various platforms that could not fully realise their potential due to legacy workloads and inherent migration challenges.

Generations of hardware, with various legacy dependencies attributed to them, meant that maintaining efficient day-to-day support and management was more complicated than it had to be. This was recognised as impacting the university's ability to quickly develop and scale to meet its future academic needs. With a significant data centre footprint and increasing energy awareness, regaining control of its infrastructure energy usage was another growing concern.

### At a glance

**Company:**

Royal Holloway University of London

**Industry:** Education

**Employees:** Circa 2,000

**Objectives:**

- Modernise the server infrastructure
- Drive cost and efficiency savings

**Cloud solutions:**

- HPE GreenLake
- HPE servers and storage
- VMware storage

**Results:**

New virtual infrastructure hybrid solution based on HPE dHCI technology delivered:

- Cost savings consumption model delivered as-a-service
- Streamlined management of the IT infrastructure
- Increased flexibility
- Enhanced resilience
- Reduced data centre footprint and environmental impact

\*The initial engagement was with Daisy, acquired by Wavenet in 2024.

## The Solution

As a trusted advisor for RHUL with a 20+ year relationship, Wavenet and HPE engaged with the RHUL leadership team to perform a series of consultative discovery and assessment programmes. The outcome of this was for all parties to gain a clear understanding of the business priorities serving both immediate and longer-term challenges.

Wavenet proposed a new virtual infrastructure solution based on HPE dHCI technology: HPE ProLiant DL servers and HPE Nimble storage. This significant technology refresh was developed under an HPE GreenLake program to provide a guaranteed unit of measure for the entire lifecycle, presenting a consumption model delivered as a service.

With immediate commercial benefits to RHUL and a return on investment that could be realised in months rather than years, this “as-a-service” model had no upfront charges, with well-defined costs to easily budget for future growth and seasonal demands.

To remediate all technical debt, the removal of legacy equipment and services was consolidated to form a single “right-sized” ecosystem by design, as HPE dHCI is highly scalable with independent growth of compute and storage workloads.

This proposed solution will offer an improved level of resiliency, with 99.9999% availability and uses HPE Peer Persistence to provide synchronous storage replication and VMware Metro Cluster to ensure that a single cluster is load-balanced between each data centre.

As an HPE GreenLake solution, installation services are provided by HPE to provide the immediate landing zone whilst Wavenet developed and implemented the cloud transformation and migration programme to migrate four separate virtual environments across two independent hypervisor technologies.

## The Results

Working closely with RHUL and HPE, Wavenet developed an innovative and consciously hybrid solution that solved all of the current infrastructure headaches and addressed many other business priorities including support, management, education, cost and sustainability.

### The solution delivers:

- **Simplicity** – A single, modern, easy-to-manage landing zone with enterprise levels of resiliency, availability, intelligence, proactive reporting, management, and automation
- **Flexibility** – A 20% variable that provides immediate support for seasonal demands that can be consumed on a daily pay-per-use basis
- **Improved environmental impact** – This new solution successfully reduced the client’s data centre footprint by 75%, reducing the number of VMWare sockets by 85% and achieving energy savings of over 72%
- **Streamlined management** – Future management tasks are made painless with the help of improved analytics, support from an “as-a-service” Service Delivery Team and well-trained staff
- **Sustainability** – Legacy equipment has been fully decommissioned, sanitised, and disposed of using ISO-accredited processes, with all residual value being paid back to RHUL
- **Accelerated delivery** – A well-defined transformation and migration programme allows the university to rapidly undertake these activities and ensure project governance and quality are maintained throughout each milestone

**A modern, world-class university needs server infrastructure future-proofed for the cloud age. We're delighted to have upgraded a critical part of our IT environment so seamlessly with Wavenet and HPE. The predicted power and software licensing savings will keep us leaner and greener and better able to support our staff and students.**

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