

ARMSTRONG LOGISTICS CASE STUDY

Armstrong Logistics hosts in Six Degrees' Enterprise Cloud for always-on warehouse operations

Armstrong Logistics has developed a consolidated logistics centre in Magna Park, Lutterworth. They are extremely proud to be partnered with several of the UK's largest national supermarket retailers.

Challenge

For a nationwide logistics provider operating 24 hours a day, 363 days a year from the East Midlands, system uptime isn't just important – it's business-critical. Armstrong Logistics relies on a bespoke, in-house warehouse management system (WMS) that coordinates everything from order processing to handheld scanning and real-time inventory tracking. As the company grew, this WMS became central to every warehouse operation.

When the system was first deployed on-premises over a decade ago, outages meant one thing: downed tools. A single hardware failure or server fault could bring entire warehouse operations to a standstill until parts were replaced or an engineer was onsite. As reliance on digital workflows increased, this model became untenable. Armstrong Logistics needed a more resilient and professionally supported environment – one that would deliver enterprise-grade uptime, flexibility, and peace of mind.

The business had already transitioned through two previous data centre providers but faced persistent challenges: slow support responses, limited transparency around maintenance windows, and performance bottlenecks during key operational periods. After a series of unplanned outages – including one caused by unnotified maintenance – the IT team decided it was time to find a long-term strategic partner that could deliver the reliability and responsiveness the business demanded.

Solution

Armstrong Logistics turned to Six Degrees, a long-standing technology partner that already supplied the business with fibre connectivity, mobile services, and Microsoft 365 licensing. Extending that relationship into the cloud space was a logical next step – consolidating core services under one provider to simplify management, enhance accountability, and ensure joined-up technical support.

Benefits at a Glance

- **Always-on operations.** With mirrored environments across two UK data centres, Armstrong Logistics enjoys the uptime and resilience needed for 24x7 warehouse operations, ensuring business continuity even in the event of infrastructure failure.
- **Improved system performance.** Six Degrees' specialists optimised SQL Server performance, resolving legacy inefficiencies and enabling faster, smoother operation of the company's bespoke WMS.
- **Simplified IT management.** Consolidating Enterprise Cloud, Microsoft CSP, and connectivity services under a single provider gives the IT Manager one point of contact and a cohesive support experience, streamlining operations and reducing administrative overhead.
- **Trusted partnership and peace of mind.** The proactive support, transparent communication, and deep technical engagement from Six Degrees' teams have built lasting trust and confidence – a marked improvement from previous providers.

Six Degrees migrated the company's critical WMS workloads into its Enterprise Cloud – a secure, UK-sovereign private cloud environment hosted across dual Tier III-aligned data centres for built-in resilience and disaster recovery. The mirrored infrastructure ensures business continuity even in the unlikely event of a data centre outage, enabling operations to continue seamlessly 24 hours a day, 363 days a year.

During migration, Six Degrees' database specialists provided hands-on support to optimise Armstrong Logistics' SQL Server environment. Transitioning to a newer SQL Server version had exposed inefficiencies and performance issues within the legacy database structure. Six Degrees' specialists worked closely with Armstrong Logistics' IT Manager Steve Flynn to identify and remediate these bottlenecks, resulting in significantly improved performance across warehouse operations.

Security and connectivity were also major considerations. Six Degrees implemented robust firewall configurations and site-to-site VPNs, ensuring every warehouse location connects securely and reliably to the Enterprise Cloud environment. The detailed security validation process during setup reassured Armstrong Logistics that cyber security was being taken seriously from the outset – with more scrutiny and best-practice design input than in previous installations.

By combining Enterprise Cloud hosting, Microsoft CSP services, and connectivity under one umbrella, Six Degrees enabled Armstrong Logistics to consolidate its IT management. A designated Account Manager now coordinates all services, providing a single point of contact and eliminating the need for multiple vendor conversations every month.

Outcome

Since moving to Six Degrees' Enterprise Cloud, Armstrong Logistics' WMS and supporting infrastructure have delivered their best-ever performance. The system now runs faster, more consistently, and more reliably than at any point in the company's history.

For Steve Flynn, the greatest value lies in peace of mind. "If we lose connection to the data centre, it's down tools for a lot of people," he explains. "So there's a lot at stake – it's peace of mind for me knowing that if anything goes wrong, it can be brought back online quickly."

The mirrored data centre architecture ensures that even if hardware issues occur, recovery can be achieved in minutes rather than hours or days. The support experience has been a standout improvement too – Steve praises Six Degrees' team for their responsiveness and deep technical knowledge, describing their input as "a real big plus" that has helped the business achieve its smoothest, most reliable performance to date.

The difference from previous providers has been stark. Where outages, miscommunication, and lack of visibility once caused costly downtime, Six Degrees has delivered a proactive and partnership-driven service. Regular communication, transparent maintenance schedules, and dependable technical assistance have turned the relationship into a trusted collaboration.

Today, Armstrong Logistics' Enterprise Cloud environment underpins all aspects of its operations, from warehouse automation to customer fulfilment. With critical systems hosted in a resilient private cloud and securely connected via Six Degrees' connectivity services, the business is free to focus on efficiency and growth rather than firefighting IT issues.

Our Solutions



Core



Hybrid Cloud



Cyber Security



Modern Work

About Six Degrees

At Six Degrees we're all about enabling our clients' success through technology.

Our people are who differentiate us, and we do everything possible to arm them with the knowledge, support and freedom they need to make the most of our best-in-class technology.

We offer a portfolio of people-led, AI-enabled services across four portfolio areas: Core, Hybrid Cloud, Cyber Security, and Modern Work. All of our services integrate seamlessly to align with our clients' desired outcomes: regardless of where a service sits in our portfolio, it will form part of a solution that maps directly to a business challenge or need.

We partner with best-in-class technology vendors, and we're deeply embedded in the Microsoft ecosystem – as a Microsoft partner we align to Microsoft best practices across our portfolio. We also have serious cyber security credentials – in fact, we believe we're one of the most highly accredited providers in the UK.

This is how we differentiate ourselves in a crowded market: best people. Best technology. And client-first, always.

Flexible yet robust, our Enterprise Cloud infrastructure as a service (IaaS) platform enables you to transition traditional non-cloud native workloads to the cloud. Learn more: https://hub.6dg.co.uk/schedule-call-hybrid-cloud