

CREATING A FLEXIBLE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR TOMORROW'S CYBER CLASSROOMS

FifthDomain Case Study



FifthDomain is an Australian leader in building, hosting and delivering cyber security training. The company supports modern education institutions by providing realistic virtualised environments to help students develop the technical skills essential for protecting digital businesses.

FifthDomain specialises in building cloud native platforms that simulate real cyber risks for inclusion in university, TAFE and defence force programs. The company required a cloud provider that offers an elastic service to meet spiky load demand, without affecting the user experience.



A FLEXIBLE, VIRTUAL SOLUTION FOR EDUCATION & TRAINING

"FifthDomain products are designed to bring real-life scenarios into cyber security education and training programs. They can be incorporated into lectures, lab environments and can be used for exams and assessments. They are run on virtual networks that can be spun up rapidly for each individual student," said *FifthDomain CEO and Founder, Matt Wilcox.*

"The nature of our products means that students will often need to run our service for a couple of hours at a time as part of the course structure, but there will be long periods when the virtual labs aren't in use. This means we need a highly flexible cloud solution that can accommodate rapid and heavy demand on their services, and offers the option to pay for what we use for improved affordability."



Matt Wilcox
FifthDomain CEO & Founder

ALIGNING WITH THE BUSINESS NEEDS

The team at FifthDomain connected with secure sovereign cloud provider Vault Cloud through industry links, including the AustCyber community. Together the businesses identified a unique fit across both companies.

"At FifthDomain, we had recognised the need for a new cloud provider as our requirements changed. After speaking with the team at Vault, there were a number of ways in which their services aligned with our immediate and longer-term needs," explained Wilcox.

FifthDomain implemented Vault's secure sovereign cloud and secure internet gateway solutions, built on open-source cloud platform OpenStack, in 2018.

"Vault provides us with cloud and on-premise solutions. The provision of enhanced security and flexibility means that we are confident in managing spiky demands on our services and keeping them secure," continued Wilcox

"We also know we can scale the solution as our business grows with Vault's use of OpenStack. In addition, Vault's work with local government agencies and the defence department aligns closely with our customer base."





KEEPING UP WITH DEMAND

As demand for their services increases, FifthDomain has experienced rapid growth – increasing from three to 30 employees in a few short years. Some of the most recent growth can be attributed to events in 2020 that drove demand for virtual education solutions.

“COVID-19 was a tipping point for many education institutions and training services. For example, our customers in the defence sector were required to move from in-person training overseas to 100% online training back in Australia,” said Wilcox.

“Without an elastic cloud provider like Vault we wouldn’t be able to keep up with the demand we’ve seen for our services this year. Vault’s services have been essential – we have been able to grow parts of our business because of the flexibility it provides. Without it, there’s a lot that would have been more difficult to do.”





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