



## Case Study: Construction Firm Modernizes And Future Proofs Their Infrastructure

Commodore Builders Implements a successful AWS migration with Network Coverage.

### Key Highlights:

- Enhanced business continuity and IT resource planning
- Instantaneous data recovery and access
- Optimization of IT spending and cybersecurity insurance premiums

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Amanda Finnerty, Director of Technology and Process Improvement, Commodore Builders



As the 4<sup>th</sup> largest general contractor in Massachusetts, Commodore Builders is a leading construction management firm in New England and beyond. With that size and scale comes concerns that even a minor slowdown or brief outage in their network can have a substantial impact on their ability to deliver on their project timelines and promises to their clients and partners.

Relying on an on-premises data center for access to critical apps began causing exactly the kinds of impediments and lapses in business continuity that Commodore needed to avoid. To modernize their network and provide future-proofing against connectivity issues, Commodore reached out to Network Coverage to create cloud-enabled versions of legacy apps that would reside within an AWS environment.

#### **About Commodore Builders**

Founded in 2002, Commodore Builders is a veteran-owned, Boston-based construction management firm on a mission to make the construction process easy and enjoyable for clients and partners. For Commodore Builders, work is about more than excellent results; their team builds trusting relationships that last beyond project turnover. They foster a diverse culture driven by learning and continuous improvement. Commodore's expertise spans the life sciences, corporate interior, commercial, institutional, and public markets. Project by project, they have earned a reputation for delivering excellence.

"We're more comfortable than ever that our data is backed up, our ability to work isn't location-dependent, and we can grow without overspending. That's all because of Network Coverage. They're hands-on, organized, and appreciative of their customers. They've been a truly great partner."

- Amanda Finnerty, Director of Technology and Process Improvement, Commodore Builders



## Challenge: Local Server Impedes Use of Critical Apps



Amanda Finnerty is the Director of Technology and Process Improvement at Commodore, a role that involves overseeing the firm's IT department and bringing on strategic partners – including Network Coverage. “I’m always looking for efficiencies and better ways of doing things,” says Finnerty.

The focus of her efforts quickly turned to Commodore's critical apps, including Sage 300, SQL, Windows Active Directory, and others, that the company uses for functions like bidding, accounting, and estimating. With the apps hosted on-premises, problems began to emerge in several key areas:

- **Software upgrades**  
Sage 300 was installed on each team member's desktop, which made performing periodic upgrades a slog.
- **Business continuity**  
Even minor problems in local power grids or connectivity posed major challenges to business operating procedures and practices.
- **Disaster recovery**  
Since on-premises system allowed

for data backups only at scheduled intervals, a system outage would result in the loss of all work completed since the last backup.

Perhaps worst of all, relying on local servers made it harder for Commodore to plan their own growth. Additional business meant additional server space, but it was practically impossible to know, in advance, precisely how much space they would need. This created the risk of overspending or, on the flip side, underinvestment in new storage.



## **Ignite breakthrough innovation with an end-to-end data strategy**

Amazon Web Services (AWS) offers a comprehensive set of services that help organizations build an end-to-end data strategy and put data at the core of innovation. With services that optimize the price performance for every dataset and machine learning use case, businesses can gain a complete view of customers, optimize supply chains, make data-driven decisions, and build modern applications.



### **Why Network Coverage?**

Network Coverage is an early leader in cloud adoption and possesses strong expertise in enabling AWS-powered solutions. They also have extensive experience working with the applications that Commodore Builders relies upon in their construction management workflows – particularly Sage 300. All of this made Network Coverage the ideal partner to cloud-enable these critical apps through AWS.



## **Solution:**

### **A Smooth Migration to AWS Led by Network Coverage**

Finnerty consulted with her partners at Network Coverage in search of a way to cloud-enable the apps Commodore relies on every day. Network Coverage recommended migrating the apps from their on-premises data center into AWS. “I knew Network Coverage was an official AWS partner,” Finnerty says. “I also knew they were an early mover on cloud adoption and had a level of Sage 300 expertise that our previous MSP lacked. All of this told me they were the ideal partner to guide us through this transition.”

However, Finnerty was aware of the possibility that her cloud-enablement plans could encounter internal resistance. “The initial cost and time commitment of cloud adoption still makes some decision makers uneasy,” she says. But Network Coverage made sure she was ready to respond. Reps from the MSP sat down with Finnerty to prepare a detailed cost analysis comparing two possible paths forward:

1. Continuing to rely on local servers
2. Moving to the cloud

“They helped me break down the costs of the hardware and maintenance and what spend we would eliminate by going to the cloud,” Finnerty explains. “We ultimately were able to make an informed case that AWS was a cost-effective investment.”

When it came time to move forward, Network Coverage not only executed the migration into AWS – they served as an expert educational resource to make sure all key considerations were on the Commodore team’s radar. This involved providing Commodore with a designated project manager, setting downtime expectations during the migration, providing Finnerty with instructions for her employees, and more to ensure a seamless transition to a cloud-enabled network.



## **Results:**

### **Uninterrupted Workflows for a Growing Company**

The apps previously hosted on Commodore's local servers are essential to construction management workflows. Now that those apps have migrated into AWS and are accessible through the cloud, Commodore can leverage them as needed without concerns regarding business continuity and growth.

Data stored in the apps is accessible from anywhere with an internet connection and is backed up continuously rather than episodically. This has paved the way for greater worker mobility and has made disaster recovery virtually instantaneous. "Before we had continuous backups, if something happened to our server, we could have lost a lot of time getting back on track. We don't worry about that anymore, because everything is backed up to the moment," says Finnerty. "All we need now is an internet connection to keep working smoothly. If there's a power outage in our building, people can bring their laptop to the cafe down the street. If someone at a job site needs to access the system, they can pull out a tablet and get started."

The AWS migration has also enabled Commodore to right-size their storage needs in real time, paving the way for

their future growth without worrying about overspending or underinvestment. Commodore saved on more than just server space and IT cost. Implementing AWS involved upgrading to a more secure VPN for remote workers, saving Commodore enormously on cybersecurity insurance. "To meet the high security standards of AWS, we were required to use a VPN with multi-factor authentication," explains Finnerty. "We didn't have that, so we had to upgrade. That strengthened our security posture, which reduced our cybersecurity insurance premiums."

Finnerty concludes with some notes on her partnership with Network Coverage and the peace of mind her team has enjoyed since the AWS migration: "We're more comfortable than ever that our data is backed up, our ability to work isn't location-dependent, and we can grow without overspending. That's all because of Network Coverage. They're hands-on, organized, and appreciative of their customers. They've been a truly great partner."



## About Network Coverage

Network Coverage offers customized flat-rate managed IT service plans for the best outsourced IT services available at an affordable and predictable rate. Merging expert technology solutions with real business strategy, our mission is to help businesses increase productivity and profitability by making IT a streamlined part of operations. Leave the technology to us so you can focus on what your business does best.



[info@netcov.com](mailto:info@netcov.com)



[www.netcov.com](http://www.netcov.com)



888-800-0433