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software



## Discovery Case Study

EASYJET SUCCESSFULLY NAVIGATES  
TECHNOLOGY TURBULENCE WITH  
CENTENNIAL DISCOVERY®

### Overview

On Thursday 1 August 2002, easyJet and GoFly completed a merger deal to create Europe's number one low-cost airline. The airlines are now working towards operating and acting as a single airline under the easyJet brand. The £374 million merger makes easyJet Europe's largest low-cost airline. In June 2002, the combined airline carried some 14 million people making it one of Europe's largest airlines, and has an IT infrastructure to match. The newly combined GoFly and easyJet system is split across two locations, Luton and Stanstead and consists of approximately 1000 active PCs, with GoFly holding a little under half of these.



### The Need

In 2001, prior to the merger, GoFly was required to move to a new Microsoft licensing model and was given a deadline of July 2002, by which time full compliance was required.

Any knowledge of software or hardware assets that resided in each machine was traditionally obtained by undertaking lengthy walk round audits and individual PC examinations. This data was held in a series of spreadsheets and was quickly outdated as software changes occurred and memory upgrades were made to individual machines.

It was clear that if GoFly wanted to develop a means of assessing the current status of its software licenses, an asset management software tool was required.

In 2002, following the announcement of the easyJet/GoFly merger, it was clear that a detailed knowledge of both existing airlines' infrastructures was required if combining the two was to be effective. Consolidation of the IT systems would not be possible without a detailed picture of all the components and applications that required integration.

What was needed was a tool that could identify in detail what hardware and software components were present on each PC and where it was situated at both airlines. Without a means of charting electronically both infrastructures, the laborious process of tracking what hardware existed at the easyJet site and making the necessary comparisons with GoFly would have ground the integration almost to a halt.

## The Solution

Following the news that GoFly needed to comply with a new Microsoft licensing model by July 2002, GoFly opted to invest in Centennial Discovery®.

"We used Centennial Discovery initially to detect what applications were present on our infrastructure and what existing licensing arrangements were in place for their use. Once we had a clear picture of what applications and licenses were present, the usage monitoring and reporting functions allowed us to compare what we had with what we actually needed. This meant we were able to identify quickly and simply what action needed to be taken prior to the licensing deadline."

Centennial Discovery was also integrated into GoFly's helpdesk product, populating the software with data collected from the infrastructure and significantly enhancing the problem diagnosis capabilities of the helpdesk function.

Following the merger in 2002, it soon became apparent that Centennial Discovery could be of great assistance to the easyJet infrastructure in Luton. The solution enables both systems to be viewed simultaneously from the same workstation and when the rollout is completed at Luton, the IT function will be able to monitor and assess both systems as a single entity, enabling cohesive 'company-wide' decisions to be made on software, hardware and licensing issues.

## The Benefits

The initial Centennial Discovery implementation at GoFly provided the airline with the necessary licensing intelligence to assess and rectify any anomalies prior to the licensing deadline. "The tool was invaluable," comments Tim Cheeseman. "A traditional spreadsheet-based walk-round audit simply would not have worked for this inspection. We needed to demonstrate our ability to keep an accurate and regularly updated record of the status of our software licenses to ensure our legal compliance. Centennial Discovery was able to meet this demand and provide a wealth of asset management features as well."

GoFly met the Microsoft deadline with ease and kept the preparatory work to a minimum, reducing costs in both time and administration.

"More recently, Centennial Discovery has saved considerable time and resources for the IT function in the consolidation of the GoFly and easyJet systems," States Tim Cheeseman. "Following the merger, the basic task of finding out what networked equipment and software is present at easyJet, has greatly benefited from the use of Centennial Discovery. Without this tool, we would have to rely on data collected manually at Luton and then forwarded to us for analysis at Stanstead," continues Cheeseman. "With the data in this form, compiling a truly representative picture of the easyJet infrastructure would take weeks. Once the rollout of Centennial Discovery is complete, we'll be able to collect data instantly and be automatically alerted to any changes that occur."

"The analysis of this data will support decisions on software migration, memory upgrades and the wealth of other alterations that are required to reconcile the two systems. The benefit to the IT function has already been considerable, and during the coming months will be enormous. Soon we will be able to operate the two systems as if they are a single entity."

For example, one of the IT project managers is upgrading the Microsoft Internet Explorer edition on the system at easyJet," adds Tim Cheeseman. "Using Centennial Discovery, he was able to identify what versions of I.E. were present on each machine and feed that information across to the project manager. The data made his decision more informed and his job simpler and easier to execute, and in much less time."

## The Future

easyJet is looking to use Centennial Discovery to underpin new security functions when the new combined system is fully operational. Being able to track the physical movement of equipment around the network means that the technicians will always be able to identify an individual PC, and locate it.

As with the recent upgrade of Internet Explorer, Centennial Discovery will provide valuable information for planning and executing software rollouts across both sites in the future.



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