Nominee: Connected Data

Nomination title: Cloud Project of the Year

What was the driving force behind the project – what business or technology challenge needed to be addressed?

Olympic athlete and Isle of Man's Sportswoman of the Year, Zoe Gillings-Brier is Great Britain's No 1 Snowboard X (SBX) athlete. With seven World Cup podiums, three winter Olympic Games and many multi-national titles to her name, Zoe is GB's most successful SBX athlete of all time. But as the only UK snowboarder in her field, Zoe does not get any government funding at all. In order to survive as a professional snowboarder, she has to find ways to save and earn money without compromising her training regime.

To save money Zoe has started to use technology to get long distance coaching. With the help of a helmet camera and a robotic cameraman, she can send her coaches videos of her training. They can use an app called Coach's Eye to comment on the videos, pausing or slowing them down, even circling on the screen to provide direction, advice and feedback.

Zoe was using a combination of YouTube and the public cloud service provider, Dropbox, in an attempt to share the videos with her coaches abroad. However, the download/upload process was taking too long and her laptop was rapidly running out of space to store all the large media files but a Dropbox upgrade meant costly monthly fees. Most importantly, Zoe was concerned about the privacy of her files.

Zoe decided to look for an alternative to Dropbox that was cost effective, secure, fast and simple.

"And I didn't like the idea of my files being stored on an unknown server in the US somewhere, where I didn't have control of it." said Zoe Gillings-Brier, Olympic Snowboarder, "I thought, there must be something else, where you can own the hard drive, so I did some googling and came across the Transporter."

How did the solution address the challenges and were there any particularly innovative aspects that made it stand out?

Transporter for Business solutions are private cloud appliances that offer all the key benefits of a public cloud platform, without any of the privacy or security concerns. The appliance is privately owned so users have 100% total ownership and control over their data for a one-off fee.

Being able to facilitate long distance training through the security of the Transporter means Zoe's snowboard coach no longer has to travel as frequently as he used to. He now only takes two return flights from Canada instead of the usual seven. Zoe estimates that she will save £15,000 a year. The money saved can be used to buy new equipment and prepare for the 2018 Olympics.

Discovery of the Transporter has also saved Zoe a lot of time and frustration.

"Before using the Transporter I had to upload my training videos to YouTube which would take ages, or fail half way through. It was slow and annoying. There was a lot of back and forth of emails, between my coaches and I, as each one made edits. Basically, it was a big hassle." Zoe explains. "With the Transporter, I don't have to do any of that. I can tell my coach to look in a folder for a new video and that's it. I can get almost instant feedback. What took an hour, now takes ten minutes."

What major challenges were faced during the project and how were they overcome?

The Transporter offers a similar user experience that users get from popular cloud services which meant that no training was required for Zoe or her coaches. She had no issues or challenges, the Transporter worked out of the box.

What tangible benefits has the organisation seen as a result of the project's implementation?

Zoe estimates that she will save £15,000 a year by using the Transporter for long distance coaching. The money saved can be used to buy new equipment and prepare for the 2018 Olympics.

Zoe also helps to fund her snowboarding with an online business. But, running a business from a variety of locations is a challenge. She can be on the Alps one minute and at the Queen's Garden Party the next. To sustain her online business projects, Zoe needs secure file access from wherever she happens to be and the Transporter offers this.

"I also use my Transporter for the various people involved in my online business; one is in London, one down South, one in Leeds and then I am wherever I am in the entire world," Zoe explains. "With the Transporter for Business we can share documents and communicate easily. That is imperative in making the business work and I need the business to work to make the snowboarding possible, so it's all interlinked."

In summary, the Transporter for Business has offered Zoe cost savings, higher security, more capacity and higher performance. It stores all her data and has allowed her to benefit from long distance coaching helping her further career. It also supports her online businesses, which is essential to funding her snowboarding career. It has also allowed her privacy in a competitive world.

Why nominee should win

- 100 per cent data security

- 100 per cent data privacy – only the owner has a copy of the data

- No reoccurring monthly fees- Transporter for Business is a one of cost

- Easy to use – with Dropbox like features

- Mobile access, anywhere and anytime