FSEW Solutions Architecture Case Study

www.fsew.com

The Company

Freight Systems Express Wales (FSEW) is a logistics and international freight forwarding company based in Cardiff. They were in the process of embarking on a new phase of significant business growth. They employ around 76 people and provide transport services to clients in UK, Europe and around the world.

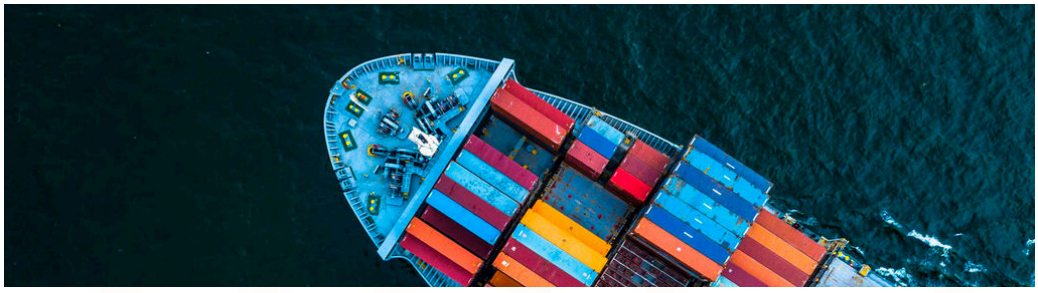
The Context

FSEW was in huge growth and transformation mode and wanted someone to look at their overall solutions architecture, systems, processes, data flows and people skills. They needed help to effectively develop and deploy a Solutions Architecture strategy which was flexible and scalable making it fit for purpose.

Their need was to seamlessly connect their systems, automate data flows, and do an audit of existing systems to ensure they were using the best systems and using them optimally.

The Objectives

- Deliver a comprehensive Solutions Architecture Strategy to enable a fit for purpose, flexible, scalable architecture
- Provide clear recommendations on the technology stack, processes, data, architecture, and governance / security
- Due diligence of existing vendors and determining their capabilities and advise them on their existing systems
- Advise on the best ecosystem and on ways to seamlessly connect various systems
- Suggest the skills needed for the core teams and recommendations on the structure of the team (in-house, outsourced, re-skilling and vendor partnerships)
- Provide recommendations on Governance and Management of data within systems



Boardroom Advisors

The Solution – Solutions Architecture Strategy

Audit of existing system capabilities

We reviewed the current data and technology setup including data, technology, people, and processes to aid the company's digital transformation.

Delivered a roadmap to drive digital transformation

After reviewing the organisation's core activities and the enablers around tech, data, skills, processes and culture, we delivered a solutions architecture strategy with a clear roadmap with timelines and estimated costs.

The roadmap clearly highlighted the quick wins. A very collaborative process was followed where stakeholders were interviewed and recommendations individually discussed in detail before putting the whole solutions architecture strategy together.

Architecture

FSEW's current architecture required many integration and technology changes to make it fit for scaling the business. A connected architecture framework was proposed which consisted of multiple interconnected systems.

Improving Governance and Security

We also looked at improvements to data management, governance, and system / cyber security. Working with their Cyber Partners, Boardroom Advisors delivered a roadmap and set of activities that needed to be undertaken to improve overall system and data security within FSEW.

The Results

Wholesale enterprise level changes were initiated after the delivery of the solutions architecture strategy. Various critical recommendations were taken on board and implemented quickly by the Chief Operating Officer at FSEW

- System architecture was simplified to improve operational efficiency
- Some systems were got rid of saving license costs for FSEW
- An Enterprise system was identified as the central repository
- Various existing modules were not used optimally or not used at all
- A structured training plan was introduced to improve operational effectiveness and avoid duplication of work
- Dashboarding and Reporting modules were identified, and an automation plan was recommended
- Due diligence of a new Electric vehicle system was done which was later deployed by FSEW
- Recommendations on System and Cyber Security were made and adopted which made FSEW a much better data governed organisation

In summary, the main outcome was that the Solutions Architecture strategy delivered a flexible, scalable and a fit for purpose infrastructure and resource for FSEW which was mission critical for their growth.

"Our Boardroom Advisor, Sameer, has been a great help to both myself and FSEW in our transition towards a more streamline and information focused system. Being able to talk to someone with his knowledge and enthusiasm for this project allowed me to convey the exact details I needed, knowing he would deliver the message to the potential suppliers and come up with a solution that was more than satisfactory for us.

I would certainly recommend him to anyone who is looking to undertake a Technology / Data project but doesn't talk the lingo, he understood our needs and was able to relay that with his expertise to the Technology / Data providers allowing me to concentrate on my own staff and not worry about the 3rd parties involvement"

Gethin Worgan
Operations Director

Boardroom Advisors