



Case study

Asia Pacific | New Zealand | Entertainment | Digital Infrastructure, Hybrid Cloud

Sky TV powers a seamless viewing experience for New Zealand's sporting patriots

At a glance

Which services?

- Public Compute-as-a-Service

Which technologies?

- Managed Cloud Platform
- Apache Jmeter

‘The quality and reliability of the streaming experience that we needed to deliver to the public was paramount. We engaged with Dimension Data because of their capabilities in infrastructure-as-a-service.’

Nicholas Yager, Lead Technology Architect, Sky TV (NZ)

Why Sky TV needed to up its streaming game

With 2016's largest sporting event looming, Sky TV needed to ensure its streaming services were up to the task; and this required access to scalable resources for the testing process.

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How Sky TV turned on-demand into a winning formula

With only a small window each day to test its streaming application in the run up to 2016's biggest event, Sky TV turned to us to ensure that its streaming services were ready.

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What made Sky TV look to the cloud to test its apps

With a big event on the horizon, Sky TV found the solution to its testing constraints in the flexible and scalable offering of our Infrastructure-as-a-Service. This allowed them to go into their busiest time with complete confidence.

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‘The solution allowed us to deliver the experience that New Zealanders wanted during the games and have a fault-free and enjoyable viewing experience.’

Nicholas Yager, Lead Technology Architect, Sky TV (NZ)

Why Sky TV needed to up its streaming game

With 2016’s largest sporting event looming, Sky TV needed to ensure its streaming services were up to the task; and this required access to scalable resources for the testing process.

The way people watch sports has changed. No longer do fans just watch the action on their TV, but now, more than ever, they watch over streaming services. These services are viewed on a multitude of devices including smartphones, tablets, PCs and even smart TVs.

With New Zealand sending its strongest ever team to Rio in 2016, interest was at an all-time high. As the official broadcaster of the games, it was essential for the organisation to ensure that it was able to deliver content across its streaming platforms with no interruptions.

With more than 850,000 subscribers, Sky TV needed to be able to test its streaming service without any disruption to existing subscribers.

How Sky TV turned on-demand into a winning formula

With only a small window each day to test its streaming application in the run up to 2016’s biggest event, Sky TV turned to us to ensure that its streaming services were ready.

In order to minimise the potential for subscriber issues during 2016’s sporting highlight, Sky TV turned to us to assist them in testing their online viewing platform. The broadcaster had to test the online platform with up to 100,000 live connections over short periods of time.

We were intimately involved with the Sky team in creating a hybrid IT environment and delivered an architecture that allowed them to boost out to the cloud when capacity became an issue.

In the run-up to the games, Sky TV had a very small window in which they could test the streaming services. Testing ran in the early morning, and only for five minutes at a time over an eight week period.

The design of the architecture and the rigorous testing that they were able to do ensured that there were no issues when demand ramped up in August.

What made Sky TV look to the cloud to test its apps

With a big event on the horizon, Sky TV found the solution to its testing constraints in the flexible and scalable offering of our Infrastructure-as-a-Service. This allowed them to go into their busiest time with complete confidence.

To test their online services prior to 2016’s biggest sports event, Sky TV needed a platform more scalable than their internal systems could offer.

By leveraging our Infrastructure-as-a-Service platform, as well as our extensive cloud API library, it was possible to automate the testing phase of the project. The platform was also flexible enough to allow for specific adjustments that Sky needed in order to accommodate the way they were using the platform.

A key differentiator was our ability to understand Sky’s needs, as we have worked with the broadcaster for more than ten years, and this allowed us to deliver a service that aligned with their precise requirements.

For Sky TV, the model provided them with complete control of our service, and allowed them to manage and control the tight testing program remotely.

Technology accelerates digital business

Our solution allowed Sky TV to prepare for showcasing the largest sporting event of 2016 on a purpose-built platform. As a result of the extensive testing they were able to carry out, there were no online viewing platform issues during the games.