



CASE STUDY

## A case study for Education & Training Foundation

The Education & Training Foundation (ETF) needed a robust hosting solution to support critical online platforms tied to the government's Prevent and Adult e-Learning strategies. With a focus on scalability, security, and reliability, ETF turned to Digital Craftsmen and Moodle experts Tintisha to deliver a solution that could handle fluctuating demand while ensuring cost efficiency and 24/7 availability.



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**EDUCATION & TRAINING  
FOUNDATION**



# The Challenge

ETF faced challenges with scalability, security, and reliability to support their growing online learning platforms.

The Education & Training Foundation (ETF) manages critical online educational platforms supporting the Government's Prevent and Adult e-Learning strategies. They required a scalable hosting solution capable of handling multiple Moodle-based applications, offering agility to manage fluctuating demand and a reliable, hyper secure environment. ETF sought to consolidate their existing learning platforms together with the new Prevent training platform, which would enable access for a vast number of learners, scaling from dozens to potentially over a million users.

Peter Munday, Strategic Change and Implementation Lead at ETF, highlights the sensitivity of the project: "This project, due to its nature, is high profile and critical for the Department of Education. It was vital for us to have a scalable, robust, and secure system, 100% reliable 24/7 against any unexpected challenges given the sensitive nature of the learning content whilst being able to scale and remain cost efficient. With Digital Craftsmen providing the managed services and Tintisha the build and development of our Moodle Platforms, we were absolutely confident in their skills, experience and trust their expertise and professionalism".

One of the primary initiatives was the rollout of Prevent Training via the ETF Learning Portal. The project required a hosting system capable of supporting up to one million users, with a high priority on security and scalability. A tender was issued, and after careful evaluation, Digital Craftsmen (DCL) in partnership with Moodle experts Tintisha, were selected for their exceptional service offering, value for money, and proven hosting capabilities.



# The Solution

## 1 – Consolidation & Migration:

Digital Craftsmen proposed consolidating ETF's Moodle platforms within the existing ETF Hosting Environment, leveraging economies of scale and an already successful high-availability infrastructure.

### Key elements of the project included:

- Testing & Automation: Rigorous testing of system design, automation, and auto-scaling capabilities to ensure optimal performance.
- Migration of Existing Moodle Sites: Digital Craftsmen successfully migrated the existing platforms to the ETF environment, ensuring minimal downtime and smooth transitions.
- New Prevent Platform Development: Tintisha then developed and launched a new Moodle site for Prevent training, allowing ETF to address this critical training need at scale.

## 2 – Development Environment

To support ongoing development, Digital Craftsmen created a development environment for testing the new platform. This environment can be built within an hour using the DCL Automator and AWS CloudFormation, providing ETF with a standardised development space. The development environment allowed for rapid deployment, automated cost-saving features, and easy management of resources. Once development is complete, the environment can be safely removed to minimise costs.

## 3 – Auto-Scaling & Performance Optimisation

One of ETF's key concerns was managing the unpredictable load on the Prevent platform. To address this, Digital Craftsmen implemented a dynamic auto-scaling system. This solution uses AWS technologies, including:

- CloudWatch for real-time system health monitoring.
- Elastic Load Balancing (ELB) for automatic scaling based on demand.
- Puppet Automation to configure and deploy new virtual machines in under 10 minutes.

This approach allowed ETF's hosting environment to adjust automatically to fluctuating traffic, ensuring optimal performance during peak periods without over-provisioning resources.



# Cost Savings

Throughout the project, Digital Craftsmen remained laser focused on looking for ways to optimise efficiency and identify areas for cost savings. Regular reviews of resource usage led to strategic recommendations, including the adoption of AWS Reserved Instances, which saved ETF up to 46% on hosting costs over three years. The proactive monitoring and advice from Digital Craftsmen ensure ETF continues to benefit from cost-effective solutions without sacrificing performance.

**Peter Munday** commends Digital Craftsmen's service:

*"What stands out about Digital Craftsmen is their unparalleled level of service. Their team is quick to respond, and issues are handled efficiently. It's a personal service built on trust – we know they will get things done fast".*

**Bernadette Bourgoïn**, IT Services Manager at ETF, adds:

*"Security was a critical concern for us. With Digital Craftsmen, we know our data is secure, and we trust their team to follow all necessary protocols. Their clear methodology and consistent communication give us confidence in their abilities".*

Client Testimonials

**Ian Pritchard**, CEO and Managing Director of Tintisha commented:

*"It's not often we come across a like minded team of experts like Digital Craftsmen, who are as focused as we are on delivery, performance and achieving the best from technology. We've been their partners for over ten years and the partnership continues to go from strength to strength".*

Partner Testimonial

## The Result

1. Seamless migration and consolidation of multiple Moodle platforms.
2. Development and successful launch of a new high-profile Prevent platform.
3. Auto-scaling capabilities that ensure performance even under unpredictable demand.
4. Ongoing cost savings through optimised AWS resource management.

If you would like to find out for yourself how and why our tailored approach to managed services consistently delivers the very best in bespoke hosting and security solutions for our clients – contact the Digital Craftsmen team on 020 3745 7706 or email [contactacraftsman@digitalcraftsmen.com](mailto:contactacraftsman@digitalcraftsmen.com)





## About the Education & Training Foundation (ETF)

The Education & Training Foundation (ETF) supports teachers and leaders in the Further Education and Training sector, enhancing professional practice to benefit learners and employers across England. As a non-profit organisation, ETF focuses on unlocking potential, improving productivity, and driving educational attainment.

ETF works closely with the Department for Education, delivering key programmes such as:

- Leadership development
- T Level training
- Maths and English enhancement
- Prevent training
- Digital teaching skills

In addition, ETF supports recruitment, research, and professional standards, and is home to the Society for Education and Training (SET), with over 22,000 members.

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Find out more about how Digital Craftsmen can help your business with bespoke hosting and cyber security services

Call or Email us on

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Alternatively, you can visit us at

**[www.digitalcraftsmen.com](http://www.digitalcraftsmen.com)**





## About Digital Craftsmen

As hosting experts, we provide bespoke hosting and managed services to educational organisations looking to maximise performance and profitability without compromising data security. Since founding Digital Craftsmen in 2002, it has been our aim to bring the human touch to a service that is often offered impersonally and entirely online. That means we will go out of our way to become, in effect, an extension of your own in-house team, providing a service that is flexible, personal, and tailored to your exact specification.



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