



— CASE STUDY — AVIATION & AEROSPACE

From On-Prem Crisis to Cloud-Powered Innovation

How Deep Blue guided Unical Aviation through a 90-day emergency migration and a 3-year journey to Gen AI leadership on AWS.

THE CHALLENGE

When Jennifer Torlone-Wilson joined UAI as CIO in early 2023, she inherited an urgent mandate: migrate the entire on-premises data center to AWS before the company's cross-country relocation from California to Arizona on June 30, 2023.

UAI was moving its global HQ into a new 599,000 sq ft facility in Glendale, AZ — and not a single on-prem server could make the trip. With no existing cloud foundation and weeks already elapsed, UAI turned to Deep Blue in May 2023.

COMPOUNDING CONSTRAINTS

- 01 Hard, immovable June 30 deadline tied to physical HQ relocation
- 02 150+ legacy bare-metal servers, mixed Windows & Linux, limited docs
- 03 New CIO with limited knowledge transfer - deadline already set
- 04 Zero tolerance for downtime — global aviation ops 24/7



90-DAY EMERGENCY MIGRATION. 3 YEAR INNOVATION JOURNEY

150+

Servers migrated via VMware HCX

60

Days to full lift-and-shift

0

Hours of downtime

3 yr

Assess → Migrate → Optimize → Innovate

"As soon as I learned about the migration and tight deadline, I turned to my trusted partner, Deep Blue Cloud Computing. They have an exceptional and deep technical bench as well as a proven track record of delivery."

JENNIFER TORLONE-WILSON, CIO - UNICAL AVIATION INC

DEEP BLUE

FROM MIGRATION TO INNOVATION - WE GO THE DISTANCE

SALES@DEEPBLUECLOUD.IO • DEEPBLUECLOUD.IO



THE 3-YEAR JOURNEY: ASSESS - MIGRATE - OPTIMIZE - MODERNIZE - INNOVATE

ASSESS May 2023

Landing zone established; full infrastructure audit; AWS MAP engaged

MIGRATE Jun-Jul 2023

150+ servers lifted via VMware HCX; VMC on AWS deployed; June 30 deadline met with zero downtime; AWS spend grew from \$30k to \$135k/mo

OPTIMIZE H2 2023

Windows RDP replaced with Amazon WorkSpaces + VMware on EC2; Cisco Duo displaced with Okta; backup modernized with Acronis + Veeam via Marketplace

MODERNIZE 2024

AWS-native, AI-delivered ERP enhancements developed; cloud foundations hardened

INNOVATE 2025-2026

Multiple Gen AI wins: AWS Chatbot, AI-enhanced ERP, and AI-powered e-commerce platform delivered

RESULTS

Unical Aviation is now a fully cloud-native enterprise on AWS with no on-prem infrastructure, dramatically lower operational costs, and a modern platform capable of supporting AI-driven innovation.

100% of on-prem servers retired.
Multiple Gen AI wins delivered in Year 3. On-site maintenance, storage costs, and related headcount eliminated.

SOLUTION - VMWARE CLOUD ON AWS

- 01 Full audit of servers, apps & network dependencies
- 02 VMware HCX for near-zero-downtime workload transfer
- 03 VMware SDDC on AWS — scalable virtual data center
- 04 AWS MAP funding & continuous modernization

