



Group Elephant in Canada

secures its workforce with a centrally governed digital workspace on AWS



Overview

Group Elephant's Canadian business was operating in a fragmented endpoint environment where personnel relied on personal devices to deliver client work. With no centralized security controls, limited visibility into endpoint health, and increasingly demanding compliance requirements, the organization needed a more governed approach. Working with EPI-USE Services for AWS, Group Elephant in Canada deployed a fully managed virtual desktop environment built on AWS WorkSpaces — eliminating endpoint risk, automating security operations, and enabling new employee onboarding in under an hour.

< 1 Hour

Employee onboarding

Zero

Data breach incidents

Zero

Hardware failures
impacting delivery



About Group Elephant in Canada

Group Elephant in Canada is part of a largely employee-owned Group of companies with a strong global presence, known for addressing complex technology challenges for some of the largest organizations and public sector agencies worldwide. With 42 Canadian-based people, the organization supports enterprise clients across SAP HR solutions and consulting services throughout the Americas.

AWS Services Used

- + Amazon WorkSpaces
- + AWS Identity and Access Management (IAM)
- + AWS Directory Service (Active Directory)
- + Amazon CloudWatch

Benefits and Metrics

- + Onboarding reduced from days to under one hour
- + Zero data breach incidents since go-live
- + Zero hardware failures impacting delivery
- + Centralized patching and security enforcement
- + Full audit trail of all workspace activity
- + Projected savings of \$1,200–\$1,400 CAD per employee per year





The Challenge

An unmanaged endpoint environment carrying real risk

With specialists spread across Canada and working directly with enterprise clients, Group Elephant in Canada's workforce relied on a disparate mix of personal devices to perform their daily work. While tools like OneDrive, Teams, and SharePoint provided collaboration infrastructure, the underlying endpoints were unmanaged — each consultant operating on their own hardware, with no standardized security controls and no centralized visibility into device health or data activity.

The risks this created were significant. Sensitive client, company, and employee data sat on personal devices with no guarantee of consistent protection. Compliance and audit preparation was entirely manual, requiring significant effort to compile evidence that was difficult to present with confidence. As the organization worked toward ISO 27001 certification, it became clear the existing model could not provide the security posture or the auditability that standard requires.

“Our visibility into our data privacy and security was very rudimentary and was definitely more reactive in nature when potential issues did arise. We wanted to be proactive versus reactive — and Amazon WorkSpaces allowed us that luxury.”

David Visser

Associate Partner, Group Elephant in Canada

The Solution

A centrally governed digital workspace, built for compliance

Group Elephant in Canada worked with EPI-USE Services for AWS to design and deploy a fully managed virtual desktop environment built on AWS WorkSpaces. The goal was clear: move from a reactive, fragmented endpoint model to one that was secure by design, centrally governed, and capable of supporting ISO 27001 compliance.

The implementation was structured in three phases — pilot, leadership rollout, and full employee deployment — allowing proper design, documentation, and support to be established at each stage before progressing. The process was smooth and moved faster than expected, with very few critical issues across any phase.

With AWS WorkSpaces, every consultant now operates from a centrally managed virtual desktop. No data persists on local devices. OS and application patching is automated and enforced from a single golden image. Enterprise identity integration ensures secure access from day one, and the full EPI-USE managed services layer provides 24/7 monitoring, incident response, proactive vulnerability management, user lifecycle management, and governance dashboards — keeping Group Elephant in Canada audit-ready at all times.

“The goal was to become ISO 27001 compliant, and the switch to a centrally managed cloud-based workspace model paved the way to a foundation and framework that would operationalize privacy, security, and data governance for our business.”

David Visser

Associate Partner, Group Elephant in Canada



The Outcome

Peace of mind, faster operations,
and a foundation built to scale

The impact was immediate. With every workspace centrally monitored, patched, and governed, Group Elephant in Canada's personnel can focus entirely on delivering value to clients — without the distraction of endpoint management or the anxiety of an upcoming audit. Since go-live, the organization has recorded zero data breach incidents and zero hardware failures impacting delivery.

Onboarding has been transformed. New employees now have a fully provisioned, secure workspace ready in under an hour — complete with immediate access to all necessary tools and the assurance that their data, their clients' data, and company information is protected from the moment they start. What previously took days of coordination now takes less than sixty minutes.

Compliance and audit preparation, once a manual and painful exercise, is now supported by a full audit trail of workspace activity and governance dashboards that provide evidence on demand. And with individual laptop allowances being phased out over the next six to twelve months, the organization is projected to save between \$1,200 and \$1,400 CAD per person per year — turning a security investment into a measurable financial return.

About EPI-USE Services for AWS

EPI-USE is an AWS Premier Consulting Partner specializing in enterprise cloud migrations, managed AWS services, and SAP modernization. With deep expertise in complex workloads and end-user computing, EPI-USE helps organizations design and operate secure, scalable cloud environments — from initial migration through ongoing managed services.

To learn more about our AWS Managed Services, email aws@epiuse.com or visit epiusecloud.com

“EPI-USE Services for AWS is a true partner and has helped unlock efficiencies, placed our infrastructure on a secure and private managed platform — and in the long run, year over year, will save the company between \$1,200 and \$1,400 Canadian dollars per year per employee.”

David Visser

Associate Partner
Group Elephant in Canada



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- SAP Services Competency
- Managed Service Provider
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- Public Sector Solution Provider
- Well-Architected Partner Program
- Amazon EC2 for Windows Server Delivery

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