

PUBLIC CLOUD FOR UK POLICE

MODERNISING THE DELIVERY OF IT
SERVICES IN-LINE WITH THE NATIONAL
POLICE DIGITAL STRATEGY

Softcat

SOLUTION BRIEF:
SOFTCAT AND AWS

aws

POLICE IT SERVICES ARE UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

Many areas of the UK's Police force are currently under pressure to do more with less. This is particularly the case within digital forensics units (DFUs) across the country, who are experiencing exponential growth in their workload – along with a subsequent rise in demand for the volume of storage needed for both live and archived data.

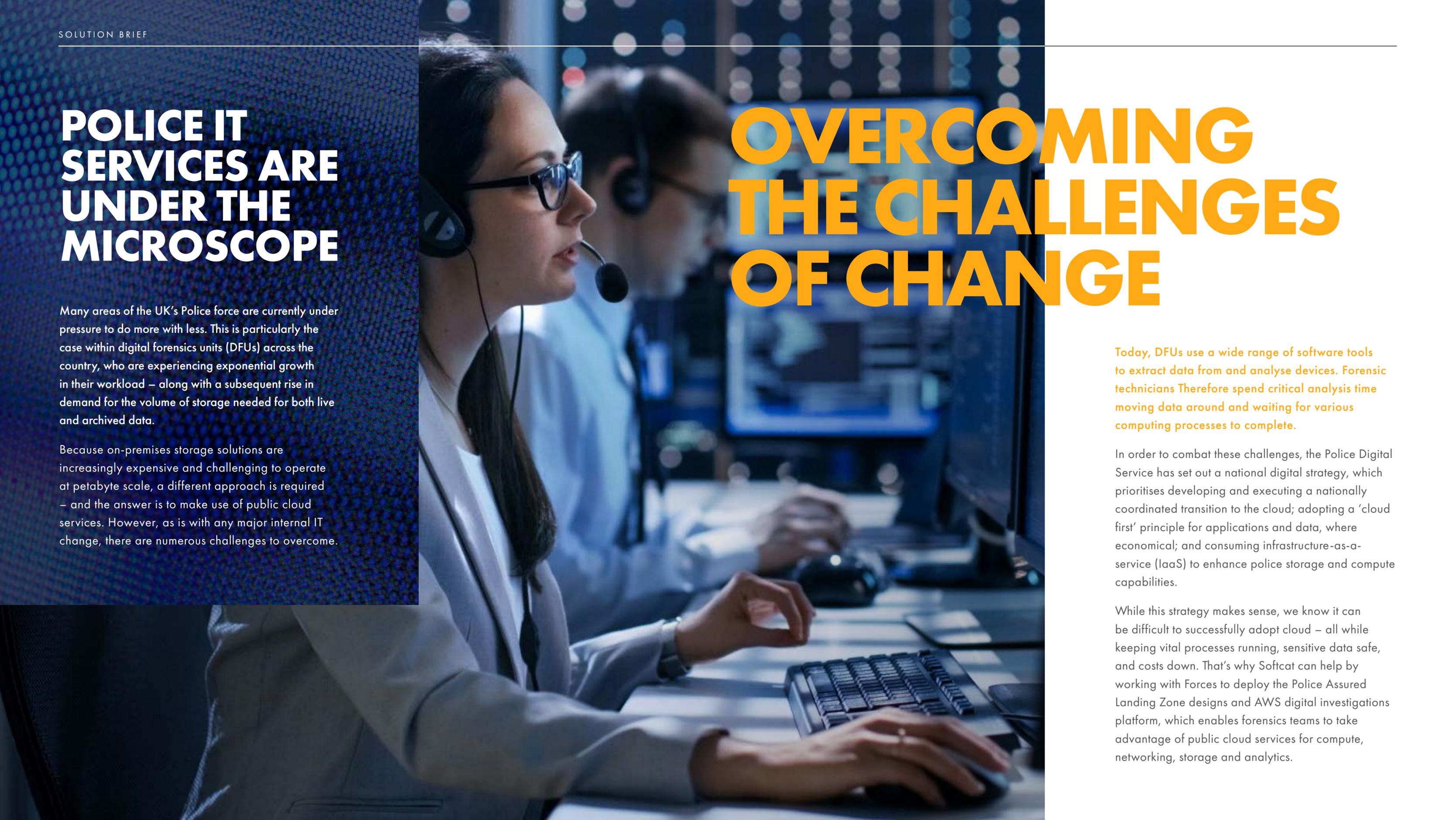
Because on-premises storage solutions are increasingly expensive and challenging to operate at petabyte scale, a different approach is required – and the answer is to make use of public cloud services. However, as is with any major internal IT change, there are numerous challenges to overcome.

OVERCOMING THE CHALLENGES OF CHANGE

Today, DFUs use a wide range of software tools to extract data from and analyse devices. Forensic technicians therefore spend critical analysis time moving data around and waiting for various computing processes to complete.

In order to combat these challenges, the Police Digital Service has set out a national digital strategy, which prioritises developing and executing a nationally coordinated transition to the cloud; adopting a 'cloud first' principle for applications and data, where economical; and consuming infrastructure-as-a-service (IaaS) to enhance police storage and compute capabilities.

While this strategy makes sense, we know it can be difficult to successfully adopt cloud – all while keeping vital processes running, sensitive data safe, and costs down. That's why Softcat can help by working with Forces to deploy the Police Assured Landing Zone designs and AWS digital investigations platform, which enables forensics teams to take advantage of public cloud services for compute, networking, storage and analytics.



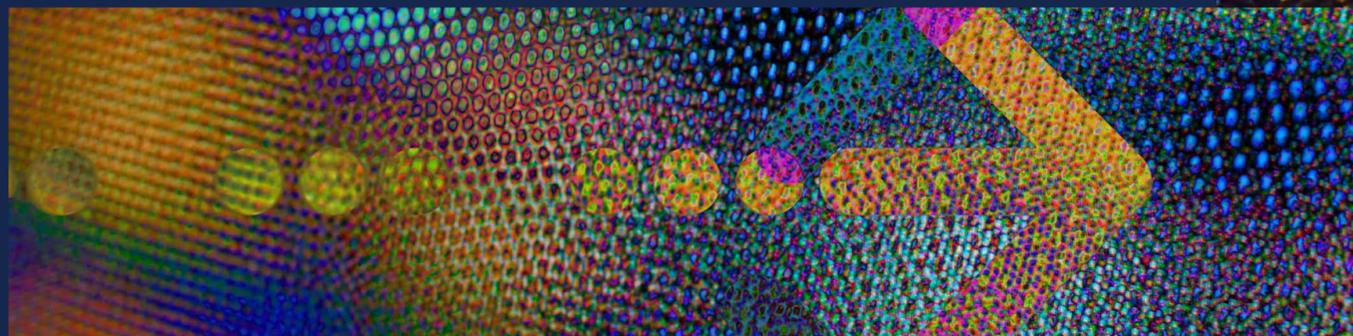
CASE STUDY: A UK POLICE FORCE

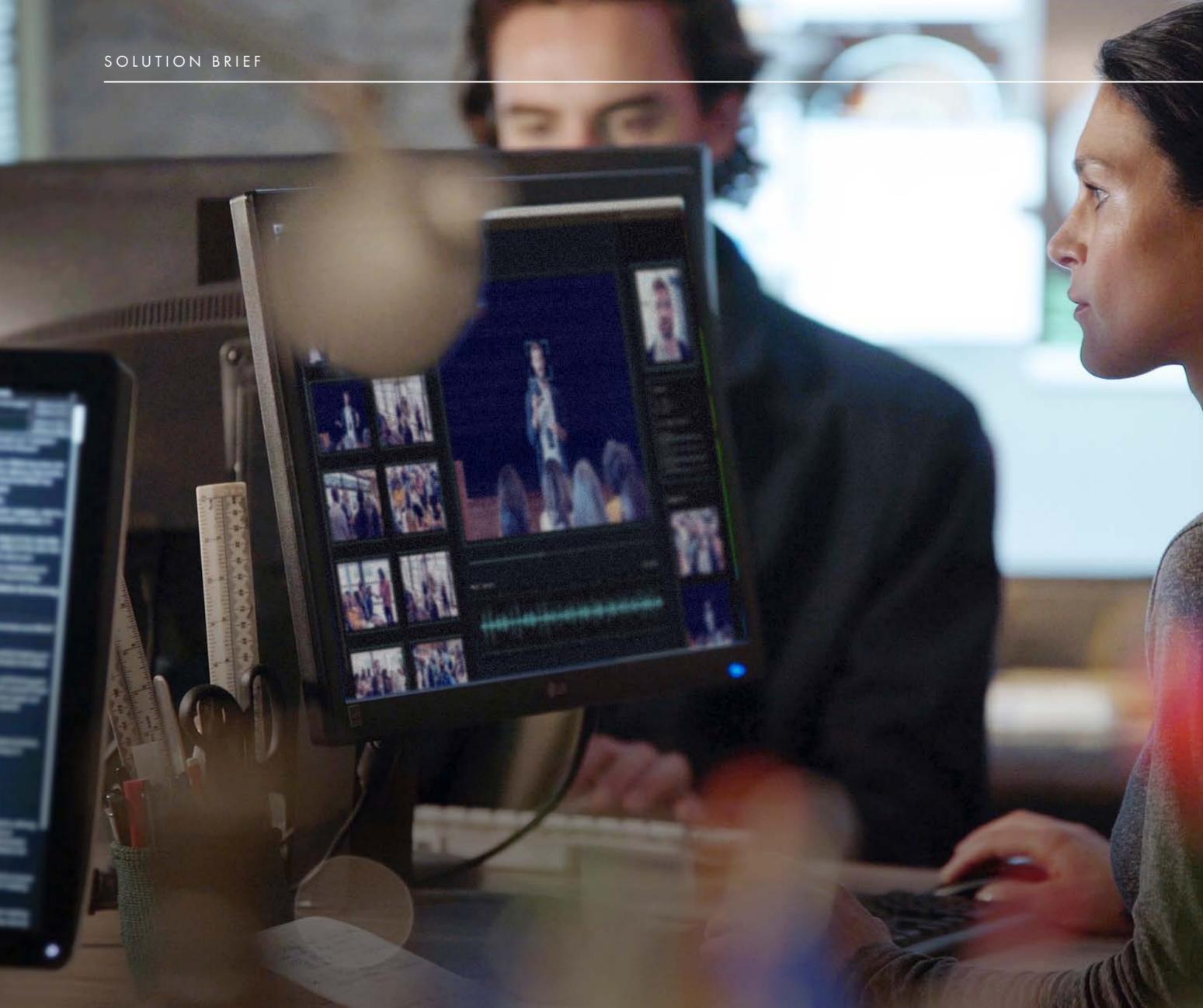
This UK Police Force are currently working to modernise their delivery of IT services internally, in line with the national Police digital strategy. The DFU therefore wants to begin using the AWS platform and services to speed up the analysis of devices that have been seized during operations.

Rather than a tactical short-term deployment of AWS services, they want to find the best way to adopt public cloud as part of delivering standard IT services to internal users. The force has engaged Softcat to provide professional service assistance to complete a series of workstreams related to enabling their use of public cloud services – specifically AWS.

As such, the first step was to leverage the AWS Police Assured Landing Zone (PALZ) to provide a secure and scalable foundation for future workload deployments. Then in partnership with the Police Digital Services, the AWS Digital Investigation blueprint solution was deployed. This completely

cloud native (PaaS) payment platform leverages; S3 (store data awaiting analysis), Lambda (process the data for analysis), DynamoDB (store meta data pertaining to data analysis). Collectively the platform was built entirely from code (AWS CloudFormation), with an automated delivery pipeline (AWS CodeDeploy CodeBuild) and integrated security (Inspec, SonarCloud). And operationally managed via AWS Config (configuration and drift management), AWS CloudWatch & AWS CloudTrail (monitoring and logging) and AWS Backup (reliability and recovery).





HARNESSING THE SOFTCAT AND AWS DI PLATFORM SERVICE

The Softcat and AWS DI platform service gives digital forensics technicians the ability to upload, manipulate and analyse data via the AWS platform in a secure, controlled environment.

Our AWS DI service is built using native AWS services and can scale both horizontally and vertically to remove bottlenecks in the forensics lab and deliver compute and storage on demand – drastically reducing the time spent administrating the many tools and processes required in the forensics environment.

So far, initial testing of the Softcat and AWS DI platform service has shown up to an 80% reduction in analysis time for a single mobile phone image and a 90% reduction in storage costs vs. on-premises file storage.

Our approach to building this kind of cloud operations capability is formed of a blend of the 'cloud adoption frameworks' from both AWS and public cloud providers. The framework provides a structured approach to creating a capability internally that is scalable, well governed, low risk and enables on-going rapid adoption and deployment of cloud services.



90%

REDUCTION IN STORAGE COSTS VS. ON-PREMISES FILE STORAGE.



80%

REDUCTION IN ANALYSIS TIME FOR A SINGLE MOBILE PHONE IMAGE



WHY SOFTCAT AND AWS?

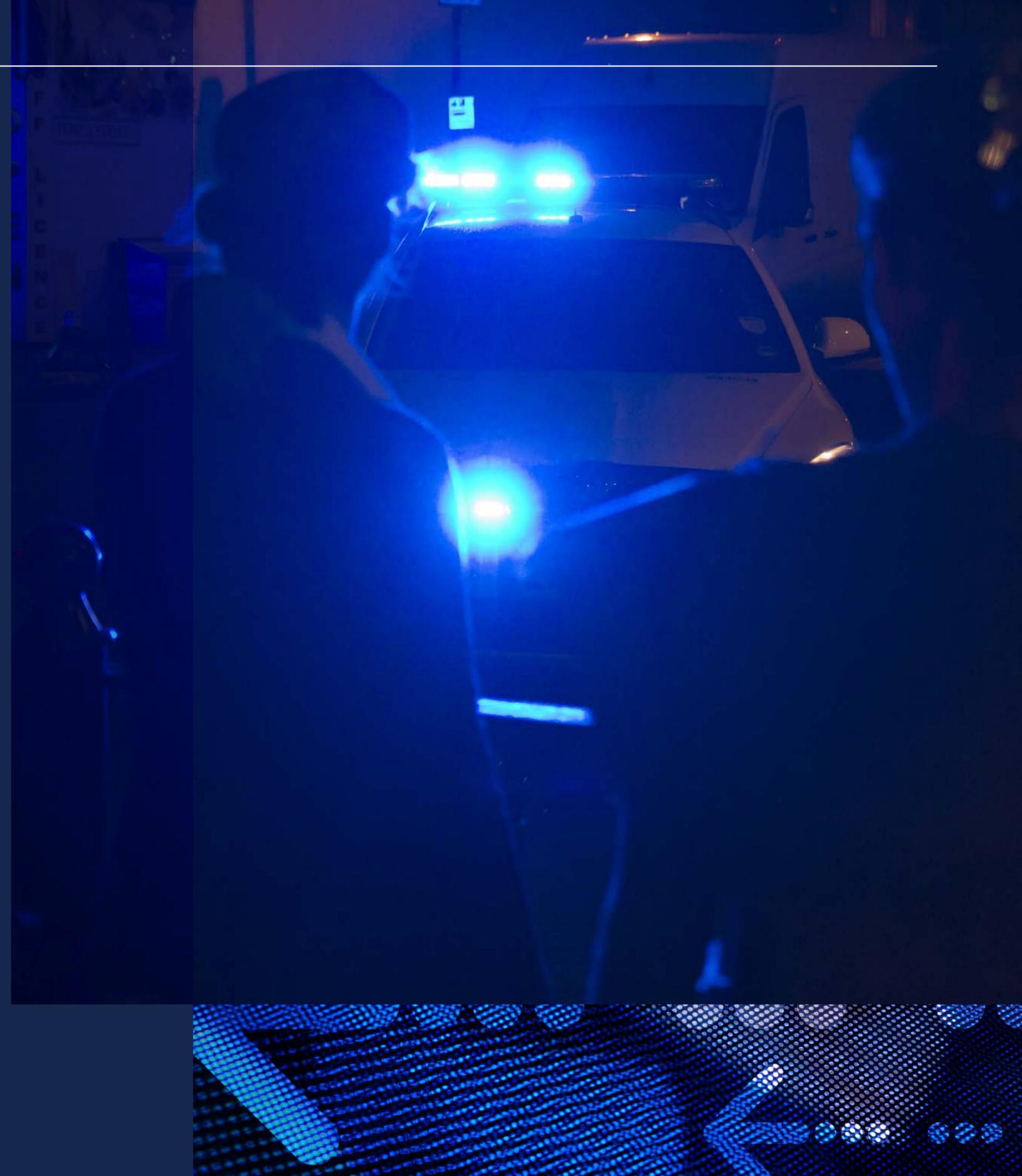
Softcat has worked with AWS extensively and are the first partners to take the AWS DI service into a UK Police Force

Softcat provides the technical expertise to help with the assessment, design and delivery of the AWS DI service, along with commercial management and assurance services for AWS

The AWS DI platform has been specifically designed by forensic technicians for the digital forensics environment and provides a unique forensics workspace for technicians

Softcat is a longstanding technology supplier to Police organisations across the UK

Softcat is an advanced consulting partner with AWS and our strong partnership enables us to provide the best support to our customers



**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SOFTCAT'S PUBLIC
CLOUD SERVICES FOR THE POLICE, PLEASE SPEAK
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