

A Message From Stewart

Over the past year, the conversations I've been having with CIOs and infrastructure leaders have noticeably shifted.

For a long time, the question was simple, how quickly can we move to the cloud? Today, the question I hear far more often is - where should each workload actually live?

That change reflects the reality that organisations are now further into their cloud journeys and are starting to take a more strategic view of infrastructure.

AI is one of the biggest drivers of this shift. As organisations move beyond experimentation and begin deploying AI in production, the demands on infrastructure particularly around power, cooling and performance are changing significantly.

At the same time, businesses are taking a closer look at long-term operating costs, resilience, and the implications of where their data ultimately resides.

What we are seeing is not a retreat from cloud, but a move toward more balanced infrastructure strategies that combine public cloud, colocation and on-premise environments.

From our perspective as a UK data centre operator, this shift highlights something important: data centres are no longer just background infrastructure.

They are now fundamental to the UK's digital economy, supporting everything from financial services and healthcare to AI development and public services.

If the UK wants to remain competitive in these areas, we need to have a more informed conversation about the infrastructure that makes it all possible.

Stewart Laing, CEO

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Stewart Laing'.

What's New?

Whitepaper

From Misconception to Momentum: 2026 Trends for the UK's Data Centre Sector explores how the role of data centres is evolving as digital infrastructure becomes increasingly critical to the UK economy.

The report examines several key themes, including:

- How AI workloads are reshaping infrastructure requirements
- Why hybrid infrastructure is becoming the preferred model for many organisations
- The growing importance of data sovereignty and jurisdiction
- The role regional data centres will play in supporting future digital demand

It also highlights the gap between public perception and the reality of how essential data centres are to everyday digital services.

For organisations planning future infrastructure strategies, understanding these trends will be critical.



[Download the full report](#)

Podcast

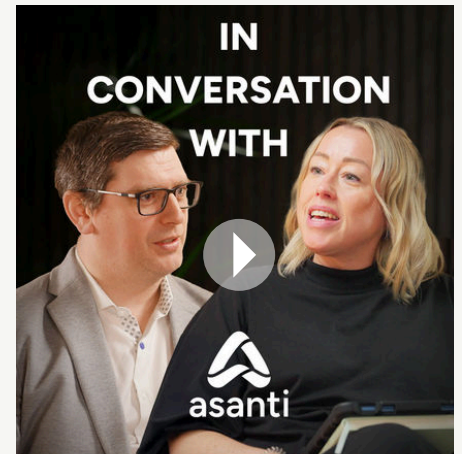
New Podcast Episode - How Hybrid Replaced 'Cloud First' to Deliver a More Strategic Architecture

In this latest podcast episode, Emma Lauchlan, Growth Director, Asanti Data Centres, is joined by data centre and infrastructure specialist Steve Wright to unpack what hybrid IT really looks like today.

Steve shares his perspective on:

- Why “cloud-first” is giving way to a cloud appropriate strategy
- How accidental cloud sprawl is driving cost, complexity and risk
- What observability really means for mapping and placing workloads
- The skills and security gaps created by ever more distributed estates
- How “shadow AI” echoes the shadow IT challenges of a decade ago

If you're responsible for IT strategy, this conversation is essential listening for bringing structure, resilience and governance to modern hybrid environments.



[Watch or Listen Now](#)

Insights

Four Trends Shaping the UK Data Centre Sector in 2026

Our latest whitepaper explores the trends that will define the next phase of the UK's digital infrastructure evolution.

Hybrid infrastructure becomes the default

Organisations are moving away from single-platform strategies and towards multi-environment architectures.

AI drives infrastructure expansion

Higher compute density and new cooling requirements are reshaping facility design.

Sovereignty becomes a board-level issue

Data location and jurisdiction are now strategic considerations.

Resilience moves to the top of the agenda

Recent outages and cyber threats are pushing infrastructure resilience into boardroom discussions.

Why the UK's Data Centre Landscape is Changing

As AI demand rises and digital services expand, the gap between public perception and the reality of modern infrastructure is becoming impossible to ignore.



The UK's digital infrastructure sector is entering a period of rapid transformation.

Demand for data centre capacity is accelerating as organisations deploy AI, expand digital services and process ever-larger volumes of data. Yet the public conversation surrounding the sector has struggled to keep pace.

Research commissioned by Asanti found that 85% of UK consumers are not confident they understand what a data centre is, while more than a third (37%) believe daily life would continue normally if they stopped working.

The reality is very different. From financial transactions and logistics systems to healthcare platforms and public services, modern economies rely heavily on the continuous operation of digital infrastructure.

AI is reshaping infrastructure demand

Artificial intelligence is one of the biggest drivers of this shift.

AI workloads require significantly higher compute density, power capacity and cooling capability than traditional enterprise applications.

As organisations move beyond experimentation and into production deployments, many are reassessing where and how their infrastructure should be hosted.

Increasingly, organisations are turning to hybrid environments that combine public cloud with colocation or on-premise infrastructure, allowing them to balance flexibility with greater control over critical workloads.

The sovereignty question

Geopolitical developments are also influencing infrastructure decisions.

Concerns around jurisdiction, data access laws and international trade tensions are prompting organisations to reconsider where their data is stored and processed. For many CIOs, sovereignty is no longer an abstract legal concept but a practical risk management issue.

Regional infrastructure matters

Another shift is the growing importance of regional data centres.

Historically, much of the UK's digital infrastructure has been concentrated in the South East. But as demand grows - particularly from AI

applications - regional facilities are becoming essential for reducing latency, improving resilience and distributing capacity across the country.

As the UK continues to build its digital economy, understanding the infrastructure behind it will become increasingly important.

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