



# IMPROVING A TRUST'S SECURITY

## MIGRATION TO A SINGLE GOOGLE WORKSPACE ADMIN CONSOLE

Inspire Partnership Academy Trust (IPAT), consists of 9 schools, serving diverse communities in Croydon, Greenwich, and Medway. Migration of data and software to the cloud is a key element of Inspire's recently launched Digital Transformation Strategy.

The Trust was seeking ways to improve data protection and manage sharing across schools. Deploying Google Workspace Education Plus was central to achieving greater security, collaboration, and innovation in the trust management style and education vision.

As such, IPAT sought to migrate 9 schools across 7 Google tenancies into a new

Google tenancy. The migration required domain changes, as well as migrating over 133 Shared Drives with users split across the different Google tenancies. Consolidating into a single Google tenancy provided an opportunity for simpler usernames, greater file security, and standardised admin console management and reporting.

Configuring a new domain according to best practice, alongside a data migration, is complex, and Stephen Schwartz, Trust Edtech Leader at Inspire Partnership Academy Trust, sought the assistance of experienced Google Partner, Canopy Education CIC. Canopy provides training, strategic consulting, and SaaS products to help teachers and students develop digital skills. Canopy Education and IPAT partnered to seamlessly migrate multiple Google tenancies to a single Google Workspace admin console. Canopy worked alongside IPAT to facilitate the migration and ensure the new tenancy was configured securely.

Canopy assisted Inspire with the following

Defining the new organisational structure

Configuring the new admin console according to security best practice

Identifying key accounts to be migrated

Alongside overall solution mapping and project management.

One of the first ways to save costs was a general user clean-up. Identifying active staff members and aligning multiple account profiles with current staff streamlined the migration process and optimised the budget. Inspire Partnership chose to complete the migration over the summer so that students started with brand new accounts on the new domain, and only active staff accounts needed to be migrated.

Another complex decision was deciding how to optimise the organisational unit structure. For example, the Trust could split



the organisational units by school or by role, and this had various implications for settings configurations and workflow optimisation. In the end, the Trust chose to organise students and teachers in sub-organisational units under school organisation units. This made it easy to configure different policies for students and teachers, such as the ability to make video calls with Google Meet. Another time saver is organising students under year group parent organisational units. This means that different policies can be rolled out year on year for each year, and the entry year group is changed to facilitate students' progression through school.

Merging multiple domains gave IPAT the opportunity to centralise IT Management policies and improve reporting. A clean-up was performed on Super admins, and custom admin roles and groups used to manage admin console access. This increased accountability and data protection across the Trust. Ongoing

Admin console training was set up with Canopy to upskill the broader IT team across the Trust. Looker Studio reports were also created, with information being

aggregated from the Google Admin Console and Arbor to improve reporting cycles and decision-making.

## OUTCOME

The Shared Drive migration was a success, with both user access and data migrated effectively from multiple tenancies into a new domain. One of the challenges was that the data was effectively migrated for the Shared Drives, but not all the user access migrated initially as the files were shared across multiple domains. This was quickly rectified by the migration engineers at CloudM, and the final migration was a success. Weekly project tracking calls helped mitigate challenges quickly and efficiently, and setting up a Google Chat group and help desk on Monday.com enhanced communication and collaboration across CloudM, Canopy, and Inspire teams.

Overall, IPAT was able to streamline usernames and organisational structures and ensure secure policies were standardised across all nine schools. Greater measures of data security were implemented with deep dive training on admin console features, key reporting, and alerts.



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Stephen Schwartz notes the following: "Working with experienced partners gave us peace of mind in a complex migration. Possible challenges were examined and solved prior to execution. Migrating to Google has improved our security and collaboration, which is central to our vision at Inspire. The partnership with Canopy was collaborative, supportive, and instructional. As a result, all objectives of the migration have been achieved alongside building skills and confidence within the trust, which will act as a catalyst for further innovation and sustainability."

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