

Acuutech®



Empowering global teams to capture emerging fashion trends.

How **Carmel Clothing** used Lenovo ThinkAgile MX hyperconverged infrastructure, managed as a service using Acuutech MESH, to boost operational efficiency, reduce the risk of manufacturing delays, and supercharge global business growth.

Lenovo Infrastructure Solutions
for The Data-Centered



Lenovo



Background

Founded in 1957 in London, England, Carmel Clothing is an award-winning, global womenswear and kidswear design and manufacturing brand providing end-to-end supply solutions for fashion retailers. With international sales offices in Sri Lanka, Vietnam, China, Romania and London, and joint ventures with factories and mills globally, Carmel Clothing takes its customers directly to source—offering highly competitive pricing.

In the fashion retail industry, capturing fast-moving consumer trends is essential for success. For more than five decades, Carmel Clothing has been expertly designing and manufacturing top-selling products for its retail clients via an international network of offices and production facilities located across Europe and Asia Pacific.


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Challenge

In recent years, Carmel Clothing has driven substantial growth, going from 40 employees based in the UK to a global team of more than 250 people working in Sri Lanka, Vietnam, China, and Romania. To coordinate these expanded operations effectively, collaboration is key. To help achieve this goal, the company's personnel rely on a wide range of digital tools to co-create new designs, procure raw materials, exchange sales and distribution information, and more.

In the past, Carmel Clothing relied on a traditional, three-tier infrastructure platform in the UK to deliver these digital capabilities to the global enterprise. As the company grew and demand for data-driven services intensified, it became a significant challenge to ensure high levels of performance and availability for its business applications.

Carmel Clothing operates in an industry with long production lead times in which even relatively short delays in manufacturing can send costs soaring. To ensure that its global teams can collaborate effectively to reduce these risks, the company aimed to boost the availability of its core business applications.



“Our retail customers simply can't afford to wait, which means we can't afford unplanned downtime of our business systems. To support our fast-growing business, we targeted a fresh approach to our IT infrastructure.”

Darren Jacobs

Managing Director, Carmel Clothing

Why Lenovo? High-performance, cloud-ready platform.

Following an in-depth consultation, Carmel Clothing determined that transitioning to a hyperconverged infrastructure from Lenovo, using Microsoft Azure Stack HCI and leveraging Acutech MESH, it would be able to deploy a fully managed as-a-service platform. The turnkey approach would help Carmel meet its requirements for availability, performance, and scalability, while also keeping operational costs transparent and under tight control.

Powered by Lenovo ThinkAgile MX Certified Nodes, the new platform is based on Azure Stack HCI—a hyperconverged infrastructure operating system delivered as an Azure service, and providing the latest security, performance and feature updates.

Because the Lenovo ThinkAgile MX and Acutech MESH solution offers seamless integration with Azure services, Carmel Clothing can harness cloud innovations such as Microsoft Storage Spaces Direct (S2D), Microsoft Office 365, and Microsoft Windows Virtual Desktop to deliver high-quality collaboration solutions to end users working around the world.

Combined with Acutech MESH—a portfolio of turnkey solutions and managed services for Azure Stack HCI—Carmel Clothing gains the peace of mind that its digital solutions will be available to every employee 24/7. At the same time, the company avoids the need to maintain in-house IT skills, helping it to redirect investment to its core competencies.





“Thanks to Acutech MESH, we have dramatically reduced the cost and complexity of delivering vital data-driven services to our global business. Because Acutech takes care of the day-to-day running of our Lenovo hyperconverged infrastructure, we’re free to focus on what counts: serving our customers.”

Darren Jacobs
Managing Director, Carmel Clothing



Building future-ready digital capabilities.

As a first step on its digital transformation journey, Carmel Clothing worked with Lenovo and Acutech to deploy, configure, and test the new Lenovo ThinkAgile MX cluster, located at Carmel Clothing's on-premises data center in England.

By leveraging the platform, Carmel Clothing was able to provision Microsoft Windows Virtual Desktop accounts, set up Microsoft S2D shared storage, and deploy Microsoft Office 365 for all employees. To help ensure vital business data is always protected, Acutech enabled in-country data replication and disaster recovery capabilities—also managed as a service via Acutech MESH.

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Results

Carmel Clothing is empowering teams around the world with the digital capabilities they need to do their best work, eliminate end-user application performance and availability issues, and make it easier than ever for teams in different time zones to share information and work together. As a result, Carmel Clothing can help ensure that its projects stay on track and reduce the business risk of production delays.

All managed by Acutech MESH through a single pane of glass, the company's IT architecture and network topology are now simpler, easier to manage, and easier to scale. Looking to the future, Carmel Clothing is confident that its Lenovo hyperconverged infrastructure, managed by Acutech, will support its growing business for years to come.

carmel

- ✓ Enables high performance and reliability for mission-critical business applications, reducing the risk of costly manufacturing delays
- ✓ Promotes closer collaboration between teams working across time zones, lifting operational efficiency
- ✓ Delivers in-country backup and disaster recovery capabilities, helping to protect sensitive data 24/7
- ✓ Avoids the need for Carmel Clothing to maintain in-house infrastructure skills, reducing costs and redirecting investment to its core competencies



“With our Lenovo ThinkAgile MX platform—deployed with Acutech MESH—we can let IT take its place in the background while we move forward in searching out the next fashion trends.”

Darren Jacobs
Managing Director, Carmel Clothing

What will you do with Lenovo ThinkAgile MX solutions?

The Data-Centered enable teams around the world to collaborate effectively with Lenovo smarter infrastructure solutions, powered by Microsoft.

[Explore Lenovo ThinkAgile MX Solutions](#)



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