



# Case Study



## Parkwalk Advisors

Parkwalk Advisors is a leading investor in high-potential, hard-science technology companies, to commercialise the discoveries made at the UK's globally-ranked research universities.

To date, the company has invested in over 100 UK technology spin-outs, secured over 1,000 patents to protect their technology and processes, and raised in excess of £1bn of funding since 2010.



### Problem

Parkwalk's ageing IT infrastructure didn't match the level of high-tech innovation it was used to investing in. The company needed to transform to remain competitive for the modern era.

### Expectations

- To better support remote working in order to boost productivity
- Future-proofing the business to attract the best talent
- Instil governance, control, security and compliance

### Results

- A more agile company for the modern age
- Enhanced security posture
- Eliminate or lower Capex investment





## The Challenges

In today's modern working environment, people need to be 'always connected' so they can complete every task as quickly as possible.

But despite being one of the UK's leading growth fund managers with £1.2bn net assets, and backing world-changing technologies from some of the UK's best universities and research institutions, Parkwalk was reliant on yesterday's IT.

The on-premise infrastructure that was cutting edge five years ago, was now ageing and starting to place the company at a disadvantage. Remote working was challenging. To access the files they needed to perform their job, the consultants had to either be physically in the office, or connect via a VPN, which was slow and cumbersome.

Needing to keep pace with change and transform its operation for the modern workplace, Parkwalk decided to move to new premises. In the process, it sought to upgrade its infrastructure so it could properly embrace current trends.

**In transitioning to an agile, cloud-based model, Parkwalk hoped to leverage the best technologies available to service its clients, while wrapping everything in the principles of good governance to safeguard and retain control of its data and ensure ongoing compliance with the FCA.**



### OneDrive Sharepoint

Parkwalk's consultants can access the information they need anytime, anywhere.



### Microsoft Teams

Bringing together people, content, apps, productivity and communication tools into shared spaces that are already in use.



### InTune

To simplify and secure Parkwalk's operations, InTune support the remote workforce and protects data.



### A new office experience

A laptop-only model, using Microsoft Surface devices that work seamlessly with Microsoft 365 and are perfectly remote-working ready.

**Data control  
in a remote  
first world**

## A cloud-first, mobile-first approach for a modern workplace

As a leading UK Azure Cloud Service Provider (CSP), Parkwalk chose Atech to support its transformation. Taking them on a cloud-based journey to modernise its way of working, Atech used its tried and tested methodology to redesign Parkwalk's environment. Aligning the business with modern workplace requirements, now it doesn't matter whether the consultants are in the office, on client site or working from home. They have everything they need to be productive and remain protected at all times.

The transformation focused around the Microsoft 365 ecosystem, which includes OneDrive Sharepoint, Teams and Intune. As well as delivering a new office environment that would befit a progressive organisation that actively seeks to invest in the latest information technologies.

### Onedrive Sharepoint

To enable remote working, Atech migrated Parkwalk to the cloud. Now, its consultants can access the information they need anytime, anywhere with ease, and without needing to battle the VPN. And users can sync their folders to their desktop, which enables them to work offline if required.

Furthermore, with all the data now stored in the cloud, it frees up valuable, expensive storage space on Parkwalk's physical servers.



**By reinventing our business with a really good, modern system, we now have the tools to ensure better governance and greater control, so our data remains safe, and our business compliant, at all times.”**

### Teams

To enable greater collaboration, Atech helped Parkwalk adopt Teams. A central hub of activity, it brings people, content, apps, productivity and communication tools into shared spaces that Parkwalk's consultants are already using.

By embracing modern meetings, Teams allows the consultants to review relevant content and past conversations ahead of the meeting so the time they spend is more productive. As well as enabling others to join in remotely using audio conferencing and video. Teams also helps Parkwalk to attract the best talent, since it enables the business to empower its employees, allows them to engage with the business and each other in new ways that help the business stay at the cutting edge.

### InTune

To simplify and secure Parkwalk's operations, Atech implemented InTune since it supports the remote workforce and protects data at all times. Integrating with over 2,500 SaaS applications, Parkwalk's consultants have access to the tools they need to best serve their clients. And with single sign-on enabled, it removes any barriers to access that might impact productivity.

But perhaps InTune's greatest asset is its security, providing protection to Parkwalk's devices with the ability to remotely wipe data, set alerts that notify of users' threat analytics and data tracking.

An abstract, glowing red and orange pattern resembling a complex network or data visualization, set against a dark background. The pattern is composed of numerous small, bright points and lines, creating a sense of depth and movement. It is positioned on the right side of the page, partially overlapping a light blue geometric shape at the top right.

**Safe and Compliant  
at all times**



**Atech has shown us a way of using technology to smash our competition out of the park.”**

### **InTune**

Microsoft Defender for Cloud Apps (formerly Cloud App Security) gives Parkwalk enterprise-grade protection, while Advanced Threat Analytics goes beyond basic network security software to consider behavioural analytics that can identify advanced threats in near real time. Identity Manager gives Parkwalk on-premise identity and access management, while Enterprise Mobility + Security controls the corporate applications and data that its consultants can access when working remotely.

### **A new office experience**

Parkwalk was keen to give its employees the ‘wow!’-factor on their first day in the new office.

To achieve this, Atech recommended the company adopt a laptop-only model, using Microsoft Surface devices. Not only are they some of the best devices currently available they meet the company’s requirements for today and for the next 3 years, work seamlessly with Microsoft 365, and in the event of an office disaster, employees can simply work from home to continue business-as-usual.

Atech also created a leading-edge Zoom Meetings Pro conference facility. Now the team was powered and connected by the best technology to boost overall productivity, and able to share screens and co-annotate documents for more interactive meetings.

### **Boosting productivity and the bottom line**

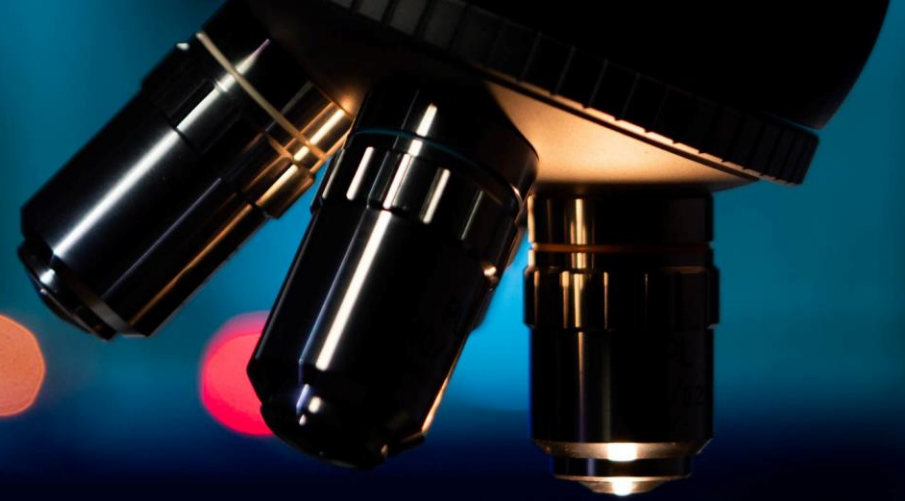
The six-week project was completed out-of-offices hours so it didn’t affect business-as-usual. As a result, Parkwalk encountered zero downtime during the transformation process.

By creating a modern workplace, the team now has the flexibility to work from anywhere in the world, and still feel connected to the office through a single sign-on for a seamless working experience.

What’s more, the organisation expected that the transformation would be a costly one, and that the cost of this new modern workplace would exceed the running costs of the outdated on-premise model. In fact, the investment and the running costs turned out to be far lower, meaning not only was productivity boosted, and the end user experience enhanced, but it was cheaper too. This is typical for what we see with our clients, with Opex savings ranging from 30-50% in most cases.

Through its enhanced security posture, and by staying on top of its risk profile through the managed service, Parkwalk maintains an above average security score in its Microsoft 365 environment.

**New tech.  
Zero downtime**



The goal was to create a technology platform that enabled our business to scale, while leveraging the benefits that modern tech has to offer. We got all that and more. Through Atech, they showed us the possibilities of the cloud, sharing a vision of how modern companies work and then helping us to see how our business could be transformed in a way that met our exact requirements. The bonus was it eliminated the need for any Capex investment, since everything is included within our Microsoft 365 license.”

**Enrico D’Angelo, Finance Director, Parkwalk Advisors**

**See how Atech can transform your tech**

Preparing for the modern workplace is about more than a simple cloud migration. Your infrastructure needs to be managed and optimised 24/7 to ensure it continues to add value to the business, while demonstrating compliance and security.

Get in touch now to speak to our cloud consultants and drive value from your tech.