

The NHL Draft went cloud-native - 100% uptime, live on broadcast, no room for error

The Outcome

The NHL replaced a decades-old closed-network draft application - one that required physical servers transported to the arena - with a secure, cloud-native platform built on AWS. The 2023 NHL Draft ran without a single failure. Commissioner Gary Bettman, all 32 clubs, scouts, broadcast partners, and league administrators operated from one unified, real-time application.

How They Got There

Presidio started with UX design, mapping every persona from the podium announcer to the Central Scouting team managing 11,000 player profiles, before writing a line of code. The application was built on a hybrid architecture using Amazon EKS in the cloud and EKS Anywhere for air-gapped on-premise locations, with S3 backup ensuring reliability regardless of arena connectivity.

Why It Worked

The old system worked because it was isolated - but isolation meant physical servers on trucks and no path to modernization. Moving to a hybrid cloud architecture gave the league the reliability the old model provided, plus the real-time integration, automation, and scalability it never had. The foundation already powers other critical league operations the other 363 days a year.

The Situation

The NHL Draft is a live television event with no pause button - 32 franchises making picks in real time, broadcast to millions of viewers worldwide. The league's existing draft application required physical servers transported to the arena, ran on a closed network, and offered no path to modernization.

The Approach

Presidio started with UX design, mapping every persona who would use the application before writing a line of code. The application was built on a hybrid architecture: Amazon EKS in the cloud and EKS Anywhere for air-gapped on-premise locations, with Amazon S3 providing backup storage. Each user role received purpose-built workflows. Security protocols protected confidential pick and trade data throughout.

The Result

The 2023 NHL Draft ran without a single failure. All 32 club representatives, the Central Scouting team, broadcast partners, and league administrators operated from one unified, real-time application for the first time. The hybrid architecture delivered the reliability of the old closed-network system while adding real-time integration, automation, and broadcast connectivity.

32 clubs

All franchises, scouts, and administrators on one real-time platform

11,000

Player profiles managed by Central Scouting in the cloud

Zero

Failures during the 2023 NHL Draft live broadcast