

CASE STUDY

# Publishing Powerhouse Transforms Its Digital Operations With Tanium

Elsevier rapidly and securely expands cloud publishing services with full visibility and control of its massive fleet of virtual servers.

For most of its 140 years of existence, Netherlands-based information and analytics giant Elsevier published its books and reports on paper. But as publishing has become increasingly digital and on-demand, Elsevier has undergone a massive transformation of its business model.

And now Elsevier's transition from traditional data centers and on-premises applications to an agile, hybrid cloud infrastructure is powering the company's next chapter and bringing even greater agility and speed to its operations.

To fuel its transformation into a 21st century publishing powerhouse, Elsevier has architected its IT infrastructure to sustain a continuous pipeline of new products, leveraging multiple cloud environments to deliver greater scale and agility.

The constant release of digital publications, research and data — coupled with state-of-the-art tools to access the information — ensures that Elsevier's customers always have the most recent and relevant research at their fingertips.

## Managing thousands of transitory, virtual server instances

Agility, in particular, has been one of the key drivers behind Elsevier's move to a cloud-first strategy. However, the need to constantly spin up thousands of servers, sometimes for only a few hours, requires incredible control on a daunting scale.

The number of virtual servers Elsevier manages can fluctuate between 12,000 to 40,000 instances and frequently hits 200,000 unique occurrences a month.

## ELSEVIER

<b>Industry</b> Publishing	<b>Revenues</b> \$3.5 billion
<b>Headquarters</b> Amsterdam, NL	<b>Endpoints</b> 12,000
<b>Employees</b> 8,100	<b>Virtual Servers</b> 200,000+

### Key Benefits

- Scalable, responsive management and protection of dynamic cloud-based infrastructure drives business growth
- Enhanced visibility across multi-cloud environment increases efficiency and data security
- Improved detection and response performance decreases exposure to potential threats

“Managing, tracking and controlling the software, licensing and patch levels for tens of thousands of server instances is extremely challenging on its own,” says Matt Reid, Elsevier's technology infrastructure and operations director. “Then amplify this with the transitory nature of these instances — in an environment that scales unpredictably and bidirectionally — and things quickly get really complicated.”



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**Matt Reid**  
Technology  
Infrastructure and  
Operations Director,  
Elsevier

## Security at scale

To manage its highly ephemeral virtual environment, Elsevier implemented a suite of Tanium products to bring visibility and control to its vast and dynamic pool of virtual servers.

Tanium quickly distills the enormous volumes of information about Elsevier's dynamic server environment into actionable intelligence.

"With Tanium, we can efficiently determine the key actions we need to take to keep our infrastructure secure," Reid says.

The visibility provided by the Tanium Platform helps Reid and his colleagues rapidly identify vulnerabilities across cloud endpoints and then take immediate action to eliminate the exposure. Tanium agents capture, aggregate and analyze the data from each instance to protect Elsevier's infrastructure from attack.

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## Visibility and control over a vast and volatile environment

Thanks to the benefits it has provided, the Tanium Platform has become a key component of Elsevier's IT ecosystem.

The insights offered by the Tanium Platform have uncovered a variety of opportunities for enhancing the performance of Elsevier's cloud operations, such as highlighting underutilized stored data that can be removed to save costs, or software assets nearing end of life that need to be phased out.

Also, constantly spinning servers up and down was making it difficult for Elsevier to accurately determine software usage across the data center. But Tanium solved that challenge by providing a detailed map of its applications, devices and cloud endpoints.

"Now we just pay license fees for what we actually run rather than what the vendor thinks we might be using," Reid says.

The insights that historically would have taken hours of labor-intensive churning are now immediately available to Reid and his team. And that's paying dividends.

"Tanium is providing Elsevier a huge return on our investment," Reid says.



[Tanium](#) offers an endpoint management and security platform built for the world's most demanding IT environments. Many of the world's largest and most sophisticated organizations — including nearly half of the Fortune 100, top retailers and financial institutions, and multiple branches of the U.S. Armed Forces — rely on Tanium to make confident decisions, operate efficiently, and remain resilient against disruption. Visit us at [www.tanium.com](http://www.tanium.com) and follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).