

# Cloudhouse™

CUSTOMER CASE STUDY

## ASCENSUS®

### Flexibility and security across **critical applications**



How **Ascensus**, the largest independent recordkeeping services provider in the United States, partnered with Cloudhouse to keep business-critical applications portable, secure, and resilient.

**Alchemy | Guardian | Foundry**



## At a Glance

**Ascensus** is the largest independent recordkeeping services provider, third-party administrator, and government savings facilitator in the United States. It supports millions of savers and financial institutions through a wide range of business-critical applications.

To achieve this, Ascensus selected Cloudhouse as a strategic partner. Implementing Cloudhouse's **Alchemy** and **Guardian** solutions has given **Ascensus** greater flexibility in how and where applications run while strengthening its approach to security and compliance. The partnership has also enabled the organization to adapt its infrastructure strategy without disrupting the systems that support its core services.

|                                                     |                                  |                                                    |                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| <b>2</b><br>Cloudhouse<br>products in<br>production | <b>Millions<br/>of customers</b> | <b>100%</b><br>application portability<br>achieved | <b>3rd</b><br>product now under<br>evaluation |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|

### Industry

Financial services. Recordkeeping, third-party administration, and government savings.

### Solutions

**Alchemy by Cloudhouse** for application packaging and portability.

**Guardian by Cloudhouse** for file integrity monitoring and compliance.

**Foundry by Cloudhouse** under active evaluation.



## The Challenge

**Ascensus** regularly evaluates how its applications operate within its infrastructure and how those environments evolve over time. As the company modernises its IT landscape, it must ensure that critical applications can continue to run reliably across different platforms and operating environments.

Without the right technology in place, adapting applications to new environments can require extensive redevelopment or reconfiguration, an approach that can consume significant engineering time and introduce unnecessary complexity.

**Ascensus** therefore needed a solution that would empower its applications to remain portable and adaptable, enabling the business to make infrastructure decisions independently of the applications themselves.

***The goal:*** decouple critical applications from the infrastructure beneath them, so that platform decisions never compromise the services Ascensus delivers to millions of savers and financial institutions.



## Cloudhouse Alchemy: Unlocking Application Flexibility

After a successful proof of concept, **Ascensus** implemented **Alchemy by Cloudhouse** to package and run applications independently of the underlying operating system.

This approach allows applications to be moved across environments with minimal modification, providing the flexibility needed to adapt infrastructure strategies over time.

With **Alchemy**, **Ascensus** can run applications on modern operating systems, deploy them within containers, or consolidate them onto shared infrastructure where appropriate.

This decoupling of applications from their environments gives the IT team greater control over how systems are managed and optimised.

*The most valuable benefit **Alchemy** delivers is flexibility. It gives us the ability to decide where we want to run our applications, whether that's on a different operating system, in containers, or within a consolidated infrastructure.*

**— Jeremy Klomp, Principal Architect, Ascensus**

## Proven stability in production

The solution has proven highly stable within **Ascensus'** environment. **Packaged applications** continue to run reliably as infrastructure changes occur, giving the team confidence that operational decisions can be made without disrupting critical systems and the services Ascensus provides.

## Strengthening the acquisition strategy

**Alchemy** has also strengthened Ascensus' acquisition strategy. The team uses **Alchemy** to bring newly acquired applications into its secure environment quickly and consistently, reducing integration friction and accelerating the realisation of value from each acquisition.

***Alchemy** lets **Ascensus** separate two decisions that used to be tied together: where an application runs, and what the application does. That separation is what makes modernisation and acquisitions both cheaper and safer.*



## Strengthening Security with Guardian by Cloudhouse

Building on the success of **Alchemy**, **Ascensus** later implemented **Guardian** to enhance its file integrity monitoring and compliance capabilities.

Prior to **Guardian**, **Ascensus** relied on an alternative enterprise solution that fulfilled basic requirements but lacked the flexibility and customisation needed to support the organisation's broader security architecture.

Working closely with the Cloudhouse team, **Ascensus** tailored **Guardian** to meet its specific needs. The solution now integrates with a wide range of infrastructure components, including servers, networking devices, load balancers, and firewalls. This expanded coverage provides greater visibility across the environment and strengthens the company's overall security posture.



## A collaborative product partnership

A key factor in the success of the **Guardian** deployment was the close collaboration between **Ascensus** and the **Cloudhouse** engineering and product teams.

This collaboration enriched existing functionality, benefitting both **Ascensus** and **Guardian** as a product for wider customer adoption.

*One of the biggest differentiators with Cloudhouse is the team behind the product. They listen to customer feedback and turn it into real improvements. That level of collaboration is something you rarely see with larger vendors.*

**— Jeremy Klomp, Principal Architect, Ascensus**



## A Trusted Partnership

Beyond the technology itself, the relationship between **Ascensus** and **Cloudhouse** has become an important part of the partnership's success. The responsiveness and expertise of the Cloudhouse engineering and product teams have enabled Ascensus to integrate new capabilities quickly and confidently.

By working directly with **Cloudhouse** specialists, the **Ascensus** team has been able to refine how the solutions operate within its environment and ensure they continue to meet evolving requirements.

This collaborative approach has created a strong foundation of trust between the two organisations and ensures that Cloudhouse's solutions continue to align with Ascensus' long-term IT strategy.



## Looking Ahead: Foundry

Following the success of **Alchemy** and **Guardian**, **Ascensus** is now exploring additional Cloudhouse innovations, including **Foundry by Cloudhouse**. **Foundry** builds on the capabilities of Alchemy by introducing greater self-service functionality, enabling organisations to package and manage applications more efficiently.

For **Ascensus**, this represents the next step in improving operational efficiency while maintaining the flexibility it has already achieved.

As the partnership continues to evolve, Cloudhouse remains a key technology partner supporting Ascensus in adapting its infrastructure, strengthening security, and ensuring that critical applications remain resilient for the future.

*From application portability with Alchemy, to file integrity and compliance with Guardian, to self-service packaging with Foundry, the partnership is built around one consistent principle: keep critical applications resilient as everything around them changes.*



## Learn More

### Explore the platform

Discover how Alchemy, Guardian, and Foundry work together to keep critical applications portable, secure, and resilient.

[cloudhouse.com](https://cloudhouse.com) | [getguardian.io](https://getguardian.io)

### Talk to our team

Speak to a Cloudhouse specialist about how Alchemy and Guardian could fit your environment and modernisation plans.

### About Ascensus

Ascensus is the largest independent recordkeeping services provider, third-party administrator, and government savings facilitator in the United States.

*Cloudhouse Technologies | [cloudhouse.com](https://cloudhouse.com) | [getguardian.io](https://getguardian.io)*