

THE VOICE OF EXPERIENCE

Edward Stilson, Product Engineer, Joby Aviation

Joby Aviation was founded in 2009 with the goal of creating a product capable of completely revolutionizing the way people travel. As a modern company creating designs that are innovating and exciting, it is important that the way we work is supported by a modern platform. That's why we are using the cloud.



PROFILE

Edward Stilson has been central to the growth of Joby Aviation, an emerging aerospace mobility company. Much of his time is devoted to developing new intellectual property, specifically within composite lightweight structures and additive manufacturing. Thanks to his interest in mechanics, he has worked on projects ranging from sailplanes to high-efficiency vehicles.

DIGITAL CONTINUITY

By fully utilizing a cloud-based platform, we are always at the forefront of technology. We can store our designs in an online database, which has proven to be invaluable. Wherever our engineers are – in the office or halfway across the world – they can log on and immediately review the status of the design they are working on.

The cloud model provides an easy gateway to a platform that facilitates true collaboration. The days of checking out files from a database are over, opening the doors to working from a single source of truth. Without multiple iterations of paper designs floating around the company, everyone immediately realizes the effects of modifications. Given that we are in the aerospace industry, traceability is quite important to us in order to meet regulatory requirements and to identify the source of a problem if something goes wrong. Model-based processes minimize paper trails, maintain accountability and give a high level of validation to everything our team works on. This is product lifecycle redefined.

ONE STEP AHEAD

As one of the only companies in the world designing aircraft in the cloud, we realize many competitive advantages. Our cloud provider deploys new software releases automatically, so we always have the latest evolution of the software.

The cloud also made it possible to implement an enterprise-level software suite across a very small user

base – within a week. As our company matures and grows, we can quickly add more users, roles and capabilities. This scalability means we won't have to go through the process of a data migration – we can achieve everything we need to via our current server.

Having our software on the cloud also gives us peace of mind because we know the product has professionals on the back end, keeping it running. This is a significant benefit for companies that need to concentrate on their core day-to-day business.

A DIFFERENT MINDSET

What is clear to us at Joby Aviation is that if you want to design a best-in-market product by delivering a great customer experience, you need to design utilizing the most cutting-edge software.

As consumers, we are very accustomed to having the latest phone or gaming console. Why shouldn't businesses have the same advantage? Many companies have built their own add-ons to old releases of software, but this is risky business – it locks them into incumbent solutions so that upgrading becomes a mammoth task. While there are some arguments against it, Joby believes the future is a world where companies are always on newest software releases – and this is only possible with the cloud. ♦



Running its business on the cloud allows Joby Aviation to effectively work toward its goal of creating a new generation of electric personal aircraft and revolutionizing the way people travel. (Image © Joby Aviation)

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EDWARD STILSON
PRODUCT ENGINEER, JOBY AVIATION