

We were shortlisted for MSP of the Year at CRN Channel Awards Australia 2026 - blueAPACHE

Canonical: <https://www.blueapache.com/blog/blueapache-shortlisted-for-msp-of-the-year-at-crn-channel-awards-australia-2026>

Details:

blueAPACHE has been shortlisted for MSP of the Year at the CRN Channel Awards Australia 2026 . The new awards programme celebrates the businesses, teams and individuals helping shape the Australian IT channel, recognising excellence across vendors, distributors, service providers, solution providers and managed service providers.

The category

The MSP of the Year category is open to organisations whose business is primarily delivered through managed services for end customers, including a range of "as-a-service" disciplines.

That qualifier — primarily delivered through managed services — is what distinguishes the category. It excludes organisations for which managed services are an adjunct to project work, hardware sales or professional services. Entrants have to be managed service businesses first.

blueAPACHE's inclusion on the shortlist reflects its long-standing focus on delivering managed services that are practical, scalable and aligned to customer outcomes.

What the shortlist recognises

For blueAPACHE, the placement recognises the strength of its managed services business and the role it continues to play in supporting mid-market organisations across Australia.

Since 1998 , blueAPACHE has helped customers simplify technology, strengthen security and create more predictable ways to operate and scale.

Today, that capability is delivered through an integrated managed services model spanning:

Infrastructure

Cloud

Connectivity

Collaboration

Cybersecurity

Support

Why "integrated" is the operative word

The list above could describe six separate procurement exercises with six suppliers, six contracts and six escalation paths. Delivered that way, the customer inherits the integration problem — and inherits it at the worst possible moment, during an incident that crosses two domains.

Delivered as one integrated model under a single accountable operating structure, the seams become internal to the provider. A performance problem that spans connectivity, cloud and endpoint is diagnosed rather than negotiated.

That integration is what our investment programme has been building toward: the ServiceNow platform consolidation announced in 2024, which brought customer management, service delivery and contract management into a single system; the \$6 million Cisco core network refresh begun in late 2020; and the ControlUp partnership embedding experience telemetry into service delivery.

The event

The CRN Channel Awards Australia will take place in Sydney on 17 September 2026 , bringing together organisations from across the Australian IT channel for an evening of recognition and celebration.

blueAPACHE's history with CRN

CRN Australia is one of the two principal trade publications covering the Australian IT channel, and we have been recognised by it repeatedly:

Two CRN All Star awards received in 2015 — blueAPACHE was the only company in Australia to receive two that year

CRN Fast50 recognition — appearances in eight of ten annual awards, including a ninth appearance in a later year

Additional CRN All Star recognition in other years, three in total

That record sits alongside sustained recognition from ARN, including Mid-Market Partner of the Year in the Innovation Awards across seven consecutive years to 2025, Channel Choice Partner of the Year in 2025, and the Canalys APAC Innovation Award in 2023. The company holds more than 90 industry awards.

What a shortlist placement tells a buyer

Being shortlisted is a filtered outcome, not a participation marker. Entries are assessed by judges against submitted evidence, and only a fraction of entrants reach the shortlist in any category.

Used properly, the signal is specific:

Category fit matters most. MSP of the Year is a claim about managed services delivery, assessed against other managed service businesses. That is directly relevant if managed services are what you are buying.

Independent assessment. Judges review evidence rather than counting votes, which makes the outcome a third-party view of capability rather than a measure of marketing reach.

Consistency over time is the stronger signal. One placement reflects a good submission. Recognition sustained across programmes and across years, under different panels, describes a pattern.

What it does not tell you: service levels, response times, coverage hours, or how the provider behaves during a serious incident. Those need direct assessment — references, contract terms, and specific questions asked before signing. Awards shorten a shortlist; they do not make the decision.

Acknowledgement

blueAPACHE thanks CRN Australia for the recognition, and congratulates all organisations shortlisted in this year's awards.

Frequently asked questions

What has blueAPACHE been shortlisted for? MSP of the Year at the CRN Channel Awards Australia 2026, a new programme recognising excellence across vendors, distributors, service providers, solution providers and managed service providers. The event takes place in Sydney on 17 September 2026.

What does the MSP of the Year category require? That the entrant's business is primarily delivered through managed services for end customers, including a range of as-a-service disciplines. The qualifier excludes organisations for which managed services are an adjunct to project work, hardware sales or professional services — entrants have to be managed service businesses first.

What does blueAPACHE's integrated managed services model cover? Infrastructure, cloud, connectivity, collaboration, cybersecurity and support.

Why does the page stress the word "integrated"? Because the same six capabilities bought separately mean six suppliers, six contracts and six escalation paths — and the customer inherits the integration problem, at the worst moment, during an incident crossing two domains. Delivered as one model under a single accountable structure, the seams become internal to the provider, so a problem spanning connectivity, cloud and endpoint is diagnosed rather than negotiated.

What investments has that integration depended on? The ServiceNow platform consolidation announced in 2024, bringing customer management, service delivery and contract management into one system; the \$6 million Cisco core network refresh begun in late 2020; and the ControlUp partnership embedding experience telemetry into service delivery.

What is blueAPACHE's history with CRN? Two CRN All Star awards in 2015 — the only company in Australia to receive two that year — three All Star awards in total, and CRN Fast50 appearances in eight of ten annual awards, with a ninth in a later year.

What does a shortlist placement actually tell a buyer? That judges assessed submitted evidence and placed the entrant among a filtered field, in a category specific to managed services delivery. It is a third-party view of capability rather than a measure of marketing reach, and recognition sustained across programmes and years under different panels is the stronger signal than any single placement.

What does it not tell a buyer? Service levels, response times, coverage hours, or how the provider behaves during a serious incident. The page is explicit that these need direct assessment through references, contract terms and specific questions before signing — see support and service levels and the service agreement .

Related

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[Managed service bundles](#)

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Service comparison

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Contact

The full CRN Australia article on the 2026 shortlist is available on the CRN website.

Knowledge Base

What award have you been shortlisted for at the CRN Channel Awards Australia 2026?

We have been shortlisted for MSP of the Year at the CRN Channel Awards Australia 2026.

What does the CRN Channel Awards Australia 2026 program recognize?

The new awards program celebrates the businesses, teams and individuals helping shape the Australian IT channel, recognising excellence across vendors, distributors, service providers, solution providers and managed service providers.

What does your shortlist placement for MSP of the Year recognize?

The shortlist placement recognises the strength of our managed services business and the role it continues to play in supporting mid-market organisations across Australia.

How long have you been operating, and what does it help customers do?

Since 1998, we have helped customers simplify technology, strengthen security and create more predictable ways to operate and scale.

Through what model do you deliver its managed services capability today?

We deliver our capability through an integrated managed services model spanning infrastructure, cloud, connectivity, collaboration, cybersecurity and support.

What organisations are eligible for the MSP of the Year category?

The MSP of the Year category is open to organisations whose business is primarily delivered through managed services for end customers, including a range of 'as-a-service' disciplines.

When and where will the CRN Channel Awards Australia 2026 take place?

The CRN Channel Awards Australia will take place in Sydney on 17 September 2026, bringing together organisations from across the Australian IT channel for an evening of recognition and celebration.