

Case Study



Overview

Customer: International Property Organisation

Country or Region: United Kingdom

Industry: Property

Products

- IBM HS20 eServer Blade Centre
- IBM HS20 Blade Servers
- Microsoft 2003 Standard & Enterprise Edition
- Exchange 2003 Standard & Enterprise Edition
- Microsoft Cluster Services
- Lanboss Migration Tool Set

Benefits

- High availability and improved overall messaging performance.
- Scalable future proof design.
- Simplified migration strategy from Novell GroupWise to Microsoft Exchange 2003
- Ability to remotely connect to the messaging system via Outlook Web Access.
- Ability to utilise RPC over HTTP for remote Outlook client users.

About us

ShiftF7 provides a range of Access, Virtualisation, Server Infrastructure and Software Services to the mid-market.

For more information please contact your account manager on 0870 8505599 or email the team at: sales@shiftf7.com

IT Infrastructure Redesign

Business Challenges

This organisation has grown significantly in the last decade making it one of the largest in its field in the world. The IT infrastructure in the UK was reviewed, and as a result it was considered by the client to be lacking in several areas including service delivery, security and resilience. The outcome of the review prompted the client to invest heavily into several particular areas to improve the business functionality and to cater for future expansion.

It was decided by the client that four key areas required immediate attention, these included Hardware Infrastructure, Storage, Messaging and Archiving. Our consultants were approached to undertake the design and migration of the existing messaging infrastructure.

The original messaging environment was deemed as one of the largest areas of concern. Currently utilising Novell GroupWise 5, the need to migrate to Microsoft Exchange 2003 was prompted by the requirement to also integrate e-mail archiving, remote connectivity, and to utilise highly resilient storage.

The Solution

Individuals, within our consultancy team were assigned to the project and became involved with the client at an early stage. This helped to maintain consistency and ensure full working knowledge of other related projects. Once fully engaged, our consultants produced a detailed messaging design based on Microsoft Exchange and Microsoft Cluster services. The design catered for all of the requirements as set out by the client.

Although our specific requirement was to deliver the messaging solution, it was important to us to work closely with the other third-party companies involved. We wanted to ensure full integration and to further assist the client, in providing a seamless working relationship, between all parties involved.

The messaging infrastructure needed to be both highly resilient and have the ability to deliver high performance scaled for approximately 2000 users. A migration strategy also had to be employed so that the client could stage the migration between GroupWise and Exchange over a period of time.

A Microsoft Exchange 2003 Clustered solution was proposed, designed, and implemented entirely by our consultants. Both Exchange Clusters were configured in an Active/ Active/Passive arrangement and were connected to the new storage array and archiving solution. The same infrastructure delivered at the head office was duplicated at the client's DR site. As the storage solution had the ability to replicate data between both sites, this was configured to provide the ability to effectively switch over to the DR site in the event of server or site failure.

Task Phases:

Project Initiation - preliminary meetings took place with the customer to discuss the specific requirement of the project and to gain an understanding of key goals and drivers in relation to the delivery.

Technical Workshops - Technical workshops were used to examine the overall requirement in great detail and to formulate an agreed prospective technical design.

Discovery & Audit - On site discovery and auditing was carried out to ensure that our consultants had a full understanding of the existing environment and to ascertain the risks involved.

Detailed Design - detailed design document was produced by our consultants and was reviewed by all parties involved prior to submission for approval.

Planning & POC - This phase defined the project plan in preparation for the implementation. Full testing of the proposed procedures was carried out during the Proof of Concept, and the results of which were documented in full for the customer.

Implementation - pre-defined staged implementation, starting with the initial offsite build of the server infrastructure, through to the implementation onsite.