

Case Study



Overview

Customer: UK Housing Association
Country or Region: United Kingdom
Industry: Property

Products

- Hewlett Packard EVA 4000's & Proliant Servers
- Enterprise wide Backup solution &
- Antivirus Solution
- Microsoft 2003 Standard & Enterprise Edition
- Exchange 2003 Standard & Enterprise Edition
- Microsoft Cluster Services
- Quest Migration Tool set

Benefits

- Increased resilience, performance and data availability.
- Scaled for future growth and sized to accommodate long-term data capacity.
- Proven migration strategy using industry standard migration tools & procedures.
- Improved highly resilient File, Print & SQL resources.
- A centralised management and administration model. Consolidated business units and network infrastructure.

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

New Windows Based Infrastructure

Business Challenges

With plans to expand already in place and the need to migrate their own network infrastructure, the addition of further housing associations that had been acquired had added to the complexity of the overall requirement.

The key areas identified by the business as requiring immediate change were; to create a new clean Windows based infrastructure, upgrade necessary hardware, introduce greater resilience and redundancy, and increase capacity for data storage and messaging.

Our consultants were approached to put forward a suitable solution. This included full ownership of the project, delivering all aspects of the client's own migration and merging newly acquired business units. Our initial responsibilities included; delivering various technical workshops; producing a high level design overview; assisting with the creation of the PID; carrying out investigations at each site; producing a detailed design document; completing planning & POC stages; implementing new server infrastructure and overseeing the pilot & live migration stages. The key objective was to amalgamate a number of new housing associations of approximately to the newly created AD infrastructure.

Our consultants' involvement in this project was significant and one of our key objectives was to maintain close working relationships with all technical and managerial staff and to provide weekly updates to key personnel.

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 the specific requirement was to deliver the messaging solution, it was also important to work closely with the other third-party companies involved in order 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.

Goals Achieved:

- Project delivered with minimal impact on users and associated business units.
- Full co-existence and shared resources made available during migration period.
- Several business units consolidated into a single managed network infrastructure.
- Implementation of new Cluster based File & Print solution.
- Implementation of new Cluster based SQL 2005 database.
- Best practice design incorporating required levels of resilience and providing efficient use of all resources.