

NETWORK CASE STUDY

Client: **Aspire-i Bradford**

For: **Network Virtualisation of 29 Servers**

Date: **September 2011**

Overview

Aspire-i had over 29 physical servers, maintained by an in-house IT team consisting of IT Manager; IT Network Manager; Database Administrator and an Online Systems Developer. There are 3 physical sites – 2 separate locations in central Bradford and one in Keighley.

The servers ranged in specification and age from medium spec HP Compaq Rackmount to low spec HP Tower servers used for web hosting and application services.

With the loss of a major Connexions contract, the existing 4-person IT team were contracted out and Zooble Technologies were successful in winning the contract to provide in-house and remote IT support.

Part of this support contract involves contributing an IT Strategy to Aspire-i's corporate Business Plan and upgrading existing software and systems to enable a more future-proofed and up-to-date IT solution with the aim of consolidating servers and rationalising the old Active Directory domain services to better reflect the new company focus post Connexions.

The whole infra-structure was upgraded and migrated onto a virtual platform of three physical HQ servers with up-to-date client and server software – as described below:

The virtualization project involved:

- rationalisation and virtualisation of 29 servers (including legacy systems migrating from Microsoft Server 2003 to 2008) to 3 (plus 2 physically remote DCs) – virtualization platform used: XenApp
- migration from Exchange 2003 to Exchange 2010, including upgrade from Office 2003 to 2010 on all clients
- procurement, configuration and implementation across multiple physical sites, new desktop PCs to Windows 7, including thin client deployment
- design, creation and implementation of a new Active Directory structure that accurately reflects their new business focus as "learning provider" - this involved split domain (staff and clients) enhance network security whilst enabling access to the network shares and services as appropriate
- implementation of Citrix XENApp server environment (upgrading from Citrix Presentation Server), migrating all required applications and services across and enabling secure remote connectivity via secure Citrix Web Interface
- migration of existing Sophos Anti-Virus solution onto virtualised server platform and centralised management/distribution network wide to end devices
- migration of existing Sophos Encryption solution onto virtualised server platform and distributed to appropriate end client devices, to meet and exceed client and partner data security requirements
- the design and implementation of new, robust backup solutions to the new virtualised network environment – using Symantec BackupExec

In addition to the virtualization project, (but as part of the Business Plan requirements for 2011/2012) Zooble Technologies also undertook

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- the design and implementation of a new web-based Intranet environment increasing staff communication company wide, and incorporating their QMS System, Photo Galleries and Staff Search/Telephone List information, plus a powerful google-type search engine to easily find required documents/information
- implementation of an integrated IT Support Logging system to enhance Zooble's onsite and remote IT Support infrastructure for Aspire-i staff
- the design and implementation of a new corporate website solution for both Aspire-i and Careers Europe (CE due to go live March 2012)
- the design and implementation of corporate Policies and Procedures to ISO27001 standards

This complete ICT solution enables Aspire-i to take advantage of new and emerging technologies to become a provider of excellence in their business arena.

Zooble Technologies continue to provide remote and onsite IT Support and Maintenance, and website services to Aspire-i.

Reference

Trevor Mason – CEO to December 2012