

CASE STUDY

National charity consolidates IT and benefits from an integrated server environment

The National Childminding Association moves ahead with Fujitsu

“Fujitsu took a professional and consultative approach in understanding our needs. The team presented the most competitive cost comparison and provided a solution that would flexibly support our requirements.”

Paul Budgeon, IT manager, National Childminding Association



The challenge

Both the charity's staff and its members are dependent upon a reliable ICT infrastructure in order to run day-to-day software applications and provide vital services for childminders. Its servers were situated in a storeroom in a Grade II listed building and the charity's server room could reach temperatures in excess of 35 degrees celsius due to the thickness of the walls and ceilings. The IT department needed a modern environment to provide space for cooling and expansion. In the summer of 2005, NCMA took the decision to move to a modern, purpose built, Head Office in Bromley, Kent. At the same time, it decided it would consolidate its unwieldy server infrastructure into a modern data centre environment.

The solution

Following a competitive tender, NCMA decided that Fujitsu's state-of-the-art PRIMERGY server solution would provide it with the solid foundations it required. Combined with the specialist installation skills of its partner Selcom Systems, NCMA felt the two companies demonstrated that they had the best expertise and solution to support the project.

The National Childminding Association (NCMA) is the only national charity representing registered childminders in England and Wales. From its headquarters in Bromley, Kent, the NCMA has become a driving force in ensuring the availability of quality registered childminding services across the UK over the past 30 years.

Solution components

- 2x PRIMERGY RX300/RX100 Rack Servers
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- 30x ESPRIMO C/ESPRIMO E Professional Green PCs
- 80x AMILO PRO V series laptops for travelling and internal staff
- Windows Server 2003
- Microsoft Exchange 2003
- SQL 2000

Customer benefits

- Cost effectiveness of using one IT vendor
- Reduce downtime
- Flexibility to expand IT services proactively
- Disposal and recycling of redundant IT hardware
- Excellent build quality of PRIMERGY servers delivers increased reliability

The Project

The first stage of the project was to put in place the new server environment at the new premises, ensuring a smooth migration during the office move. Once the server solution was in place, the charity migrated its core business applications to the central servers. Working with Selcom Systems and Fujitsu, NCMA completed the build of a modern data centre environment in six months.

Tim Mills, IT and support, National Childminding Association comments: "A large part of what we do as an organisation is to provide vital information and services that enable our members to follow best practices out in the field. Nowadays this is all delivered using internet channels - so it is vital for the IT systems behind the scenes to be reliable. In addition, our systems must be able to cope with the continual legislative changes in the childcare sector. The solution from Fujitsu fits both these requirements perfectly."

A record of success

As a result, the charity is benefiting from greater flexibility. Following a visit to Fujitsu's manufacturing plant in Germany the charity was impressed with the build quality of its systems and green credentials. And in addition to the server solution NCMA has also added over 30 ESPRIMO green PCs and 80 AMILO laptops for its mobile and home working staff. Dealing with one IT vendor with the build quality of Fujitsu has enabled the charity to reduce procurement costs.

The charity now takes a far more proactive approach to managing its IT systems. Tim Mills, IT and support, National Childminding Association comments: "Having conducted a number of cost comparisons, Fujitsu came out head-and-shoulders above the rest. We really bought into the company's approach and commitment and were extremely impressed with its green credentials."

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