

National charity consolidates IT and benefits from an integrated server environment

The National Childminding Association moves ahead with Fujitsu Siemens Computers



»Fujitsu Siemens Computers 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 Customer

The National Childminding Association, Kent, England

www.ncma.org.uk

→ The Project

To support NCMA's head office relocation and migrate and consolidate its ICT infrastructure

The National Childminding Association (NCMA) has worked with Fujitsu Siemens Computers to migrate and consolidate its data centre and IT infrastructure. The decision was taken to support the charity's head office relocation and the need to run business critical applications from a single data centre environment. The solution has enabled the charity to free up vital IT resources and meet various best practice requirements. The central server location will run applications for over 450 users spread across nine regional offices and 28 satellite offices. The charity is also starting to

realise vital cost savings by procuring its equipment through a single manufacturer of green IT systems.

The client

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.

→ The Solution

PRIMERGY RX Server solution

Service partner: Selcom Systems



Benefits for the NCMA

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

Hardware and software overview

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

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 two-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 Siemens Computers' 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 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 Siemens Computers, 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 Siemens Computers fits both these requirements perfectly."

Outcome

Rather than having to communicate with the 37 sites around the country, the integrated server solution enables NCMA's IT department to manage its entire applications from the central data centre location. The NCMA's IT department can now cope with increasing data demand more efficiently and monitor performance across the network. As a result, the charity is benefiting from greater flexibility. Following a visit to Fujitsu Siemens Computers 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 the 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 Siemens Computers 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 Siemens Computers 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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