



Staffordshire County Council

Private Cloud

risual

the customer overview

Customer

Staffordshire County Council

Website

www.staffordshire.gov.uk

Number of employees

Approx 30000

Country or region

Staffordshire, United Kingdom

Industry

Public Sector

Customer profile

Staffordshire County Council provides its residents with vital services including schools, libraries, social services, highways and planning. Sixty two elected county councillors make decisions for the county and work closely with council officers to drive thier overall strategy.





"Our interest in the private cloud was initially driven by the need to further consolidate the servers in our data centre through second generation virtualisation technologies. In 2007, Staffordshire virtualised a large proportion of its server estate. This is being extended to business-critical applications, including web content management, adult and children's case management systems, geographic information systems, and pensions' administration. We're also looking at virtualising SAP in 2012"

Vic Falcus Head of ICT Service
Management County Council

the problem



Staffordshire County Council is the eighth-largest council in England and a leader in shared IT services. It wanted to benefit from management and virtualisation to save money and ensure continuity of critical applications, while creating a private cloud environment to extend shared services.



Staffordshire IT services need to cut the cost of its existing physical server infrastructure. They need to improve availability and disaster recovery, as they currently have more than 200 virtual machines across its two data centres.



change of business needs

Staffordshire County Council wanted to support shared services through the use of private cloud. Falcus says: "In the first phase, 1,000 council social workers are transferring to the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership National Health Service (NHS) Trust. The newly-formed organisation creates the largest health and social care organisation in the U.K. Having a secure private cloud will help create shared ICT provision, giving us the ability to respond to the requirements of the new organisation as they evolve." More of their business needs include:

- Cost efficiency
- Improve availability and disaster recovery
- Private Cloud environment
- Comprehensive monitoring and management solution
- Improvement on performance
- Enhance our ability to calculate charge-back costing to internal customers and third parties
- Reduce the production server estate



the solution

Working with Risual, the authority carried out a proof of concept and a production deployment solution using the Microsoft System Center suite and Microsoft Hyper-V Server 2008 R2. Over the next 12 months, significant savings and productivity gains are expected, with server build times cut by around 90 per cent and scope to reduce human resource demands.

benefits

Staffordshire can now enter more shared services partnerships and can accurately bill for underlying services. New server provisioning now takes seconds and only five to 10 minutes to be fully on the domain, with no disruption to the organisation.

- Cost effective
- System Center products can manage the applications as well as the virtual machines
- Now possible to bill shared services partners accurately
- Comprehensive client management across physical, mobile, and virtual environments

The background of the image shows a trade show or exhibition booth. In the upper portion, the word "visual" is repeated in a stylized, metallic font on a glass or wall panel. Below this, there are orange plastic chairs with a modern, curved design. The overall scene is brightly lit, typical of an indoor exhibition space.

Staffordshire ICT is committed to the future development of the private cloud and is already interested in the next wave of Microsoft cloud technologies. The organisation is confident that Microsoft has recognised that the infrastructure business is increasingly driven by applications that Microsoft clients are building.

Falcus says: "For us, the big win so far is that we've moved to a scalable cloud-based environment that brings together virtualised servers and storage. The Microsoft System Center 2012 suite including Virtual Machine Manager 2012 and Orchestrator are of particular interest to us. They will help Staffordshire ICT in creating an even more resilient cloud-based platform for our customers."

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