

Adapto

• Client

Mole Valley District Council

• Industry

Local Government

• Challenge

As part of an overall sustainability strategy, every team in the council wanted to help reduce the organisation's carbon footprint and contribute to the 'How Green is Your Valley?' initiative. The IT team was aware that the running costs of their computer servers were high and they needed to look at ways to use resources more effectively and efficiently.

• Solution

Use VMware Virtual Infrastructure to consolidate servers and provide a more efficient and highly resilient environment.

• Benefits

- Reduced Cost of Ownership
- Reduced Environmental Impact
- Higher Application Availability
- Simplified Management

"The technical team at Adapto is extremely knowledgeable and gave us all the practical advice we needed. They were always available when we needed them and became an extension of our team during the implementation. Overall we were very impressed."

Chris Norris
Business Systems Support Manager
Mole Valley District Council

Case Study: Server Virtualisation Solution using VMware

Mole Valley District Council



Photo by Bob Bartlett MV DC

The Client

Mole Valley is one of 11 districts/boroughs that make up the county of Surrey, and takes its name from the River Mole. The area stretches 100 square miles and its 80,300 residents live in the two main towns of Leatherhead and Dorking and the surrounding villages.

Mole Valley District Council's offices are in Dorking and the organisation employs 350 staff. It was rated 'good' by the Audit Commission in the Comprehensive Performance Assessment 2005.

For more information see <http://www.molevalley.gov.uk>

The Business Challenge

As part of an overall sustainability strategy, every team in the council wanted to help reduce the organisation's carbon footprint and contribute to the 'How Green is Your Valley?' initiative. The IT team was aware that the running costs of their

computer servers were high and they needed to look at ways to use resources more effectively and efficiently.

The council's Head of IT Services Bob Thomas said: "We suffered from server sprawl – every time a new application was introduced it needed a new server. That meant more power use, and increased cooling requirements, but also added to our replacement budget and licensing costs."

Leveraging Adapto's Experience

Adapto's experience as a VMware, Cisco and Microsoft Partner meant it was able to work with the Mole Valley IT team to assess the council's current and future needs to develop a solution that would save energy and tax payers' money. The end result was to create a tailored Virtualisation solution using VMware's Virtual Infrastructure, and HP Storage to provide a highly resilient and reliable platform for the council's IT applications.

• About Adapto

At Adapto we aim to deliver innovative, flexible, technology consulting and solutions, to the benefit of our customers, clients and partners through an open, collaborative approach.

It is our aim to deliver high quality solutions meeting your requirements today with the flexibility to evolve and meet the changing needs of your organisation in the future.

• Why Adapto

Adapto provides end-to-end solutions including design, implementation, and support services for systems and storage technologies.

We provide our clients with ways to reduce the cost and complexity of their computing infrastructure so financial resources and personnel are freed up for more strategic initiatives.

• Talk with us

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• Email us

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Because Mole Valley was one of the early adopters of VMware Virtual Infrastructure technology there weren't many other local authorities they could talk to. So Adapto's experience and guidance was critical in choosing the right solution.

Business Systems Support Manager Chris Norris said: "Adapto has helped us with projects in the past and we knew we could rely on them. The technical team at Adapto is extremely knowledgeable and gave us all the practical advice we needed. They were always available when we needed them and became an extension of our team during the implementation. Overall we were very impressed."

Delivering Results

As one of the first district councils to use VMware solutions, forward-thinking Mole Valley has proved that new technology is cost effective and can deliver dramatic 'green' results. It was also surprisingly quick and easy to implement.

• Reduced Environmental Impact

Virtualisation consolidated 29 of the council's servers down to just 4, cutting server energy use by nearly 20% taking the equivalent of 25 cars* off the road.

• Reduced Cost of Ownership

The council has been able to significantly reduce its budget for server maintenance and replacement, in addition to reducing energy usage, and costs for both power and cooling.

• Higher Application Availability and Simplified Management

6 ESX hosts were deployed in two VMware clusters, one at each of the council's two sites. The second cluster providing scope for further virtualisation and disaster recovery. Each cluster makes use of the vMotion, DRS, and HA technologies to deliver high availability, and allows the addition of processing power on demand.

The combination of VMware with VirtualCenter and vMotion provided increases in application availability. VMware ESX servers not only provide high availability in case of system failure, but ensure that applications remain online during routine hardware maintenance. In addition, replicating the virtual machines to a remote site allows disaster recovery to be dramatically simplified.

Virtual machine clones and snapshots allow the IT team to fully test new software and patches and quickly roll back if anything goes wrong.

Energy Fact File

A server is responsible for approx. 4 tons of CO2 emissions per year - equivalent to an average car*.

The council uses nearly 5 million KWH/year of energy, 30.5% of which is electricity. It costs nearly £175,000 per year.

* Car carbon estimate: www.ecobusinesslinks.com



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