



Company Background

Since its inception in 1988, Howett Thorpe, has built an impressive reputation amongst clients and candidates within the Surrey, Hampshire and Berkshire area for providing high quality recruitment solutions within all disciplines of finance. This reputation has been based upon a strong understanding of current market conditions and a direct and honest approach.

The Project

Having recently returned to IMEX as their outsourced IT provider, Howett Thorpe decided that a complete upgrade of their IT network was required. Howett Thorpe are highly dependent on IT for many aspects of their day to day business, and it was felt that upgrading their infrastructure would allow them to take full advantage of the latest Windows server and desktop operating systems, as well as allowing them to integrate the latest version of Microsoft Office with their recruitment management software. In addition, investing in new server and desktop hardware offered improved reliability and scalability for potential growth over the next few years.

The Solution

Being an accredited Microsoft Small Business Specialist and having many years experience with Microsoft's Small Business software, IMEX decided that Windows Small Business Server 2008 offered all of the server based technologies required by Howett Thorpe (including SQL server and Exchange 2007 server) and also provided excellent value for money and return on investment. The new desktops would run Windows 7 and Microsoft Office 2007.

IMEX configured the new desktops for Howett Thorpe before replacing the server, giving members of staff some transition time where they could get used to the new Windows 7 Operating system and software.

IMEX were able to complete much of the configuration and testing of the server at their own office, meaning no disruption to existing IT services. The server replacement

was completed over a weekend, allowing all data to be migrated without disruption to users during working hours, and giving time for all aspects of the system to be thoroughly tested. IMEX also completed the desktop migration steps over the same weekend so that users were able to come in Monday morning and log on to the new system seamlessly.

Finally, IMEX worked with Howett Thorpe's recruitment software support team (Itec Systems) to successfully migrate their SQL database and application from the old server to the new one

The Business Benefits

Howett Thorpe now has all the benefits of Microsoft's latest server technologies, including Exchange Server 2007 and SQL Server, along with the simplified management tools included in SBS2008. Additionally, the new server has increased capacity and performance and has been designed to meet Howett Thorpe's IT needs for the foreseeable future. Using Windows 7 combined with Microsoft Office 2007 has improved the user experience in many ways including, quicker access to information through search, general reliability and performance.

Principle Technologies

Windows 7
Windows Small Business Server 2008
Exchange 2007 messaging infrastructure

Customer comments

"The new server platform, coupled with new Windows 7 PCs for all of our users, has brought Howett Thorpe fully up to date with Microsoft Office and recruitment management software, and has increased the speed and stability of IT systems. Additionally, Howett Thorpe now have tools available which allow them to easily access IT systems remotely. The investment has given everyone at Howett Thorpe confidence that we can maintain our competitive edge in aggressive marketplace."

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