

Small Business Server unites technology infrastructure, location and people



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Waverley Lane migrated East Lothian company Chalmers Surveyors’ applications, data and emails to Small Business Server 2008. With practically no interruption to daily operations, Waverley Lane replaced the existing hardware and software with a single server solution.

Chalmers Surveyors is a firm of chartered surveyors, estate agents, letting agents and architects in East Lothian. Chalmers had been working out of two office locations with its Building Department on a separate site from its main office. It purchased new, larger premises so that it could bring all of its staff and their supporting infrastructure together under one roof.

A lack of capacity and poor performance from existing hardware and server software had already started to affect operations, so the move provided the perfect opportunity to upgrade the infrastructure to properly support the business.

Minimal impact

Waverley Lane installed, configured and commissioned a brand new server in Chalmers’ new head office using Microsoft Small Business Server 2008.

The new server was installed at the main office site while Chalmers was still in its old offices. Email account and data migration took place overnight to make the transition completely seamless. “It went very smoothly to the point that they had all the preparatory work done without us even noticing,” says Audrey Stevenson, Chalmers Surveyors.

The server migration took place at the same time as a complete office refurbishment. As part of the end-to-end solution, and to minimise the impact for Chalmers Surveyors, Waverley Lane liaised with the building trades to ensure that the structured cabling infrastructure was suitable for current needs and to support future business growth.

“There was a lot of work to do in the office to sort cabling and housing for the new equipment,” says Stevenson. “With all the building work going on, their path wasn’t smooth. They did a great job working around everyone.”

More than a technology upgrade

“Upgrading to Small Business Server was about more than simply changing the technology,” says Archie Bell, Waverley Lane. “It was about giving Chalmers Surveyors the confidence that their systems would support the growing business and make it easier for employees to carry out their day to day tasks.”

Chalmers’ original servers were ageing rapidly and the data stored on them was not properly backed up. With no off-site back up, Chalmers was vulnerable to system failures or external events such as fire or flood. With Small Business Server 2008 in place, Waverley Lane consultants were able to install, configure and schedule nightly backups so that tapes could be taken off-site for resilience and security.

Chalmers Surveyors now has rationalised file storage in a single location and with a standard document filing structure. Employees have reliable remote access to email and the business has the security of hardware resilience.

Stevenson says: “We have very high levels of confidence in Waverley Lane. During the migration they did what they had to do, with no fuss, and it couldn’t have gone better.”

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