Abtec
Network Systems

IT Investment to Pay Dividends

Updating the Society's IT has created an efficient infrastructure that will enable it to focus more time with its members.

Providing value for its members is an important tenet of Buckinghamshire Building Society's philosophy. This belief extends to all areas of the organisation, including IT.

Prompted by the need to review its existing IT, the Society engaged IT specialists Abtec Network Systems. Kate Buggs, project lead at the mutual, comments "We needed to work with a company that has significant experience in the financial sector."

Abtec works with many UK building societies and understands the industry's regulatory framework. Phil Kennerdell, Sales Director at Abtec Network Systems, points out; "Over the years we've built a wealth of experience and technology services that can really help building societies."

Efficient and flexible

After several workshops exploring the Society's long term strategy, Phil proposed a plan to satisfy the organisation's immediate and long term needs. "Our plan had two aims; first create an infrastructure that could be managed efficiently. Second, build flexibility into it so that it can respond to future changes." Both aims were underpinned with high levels of security and resilience.

Abtec delivered

Abtec's engineering team began by replacing the organisation's estate of desktop PCs with Wyse thin clients. This change would make it easier for

Buckinghamshire
Building Society
doing the right thing

Founded in 1907, Buckinghamshire Building Society now has more than 11,000 savings customers and 1,000 borrowers.

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Buckinghamshire Building Society

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the Society to manage their computers, and reduce the associated costs of running many PCs.

Next, the team created a more resilient and flexible data centre for the Society, using virtualisation software. The engineers installed a Storage Area Network (SAN) for the organisation's data. Removing data from the hardware servers and placing it on separate storage hardware, with duplicates, means that if a server failure occurs its backup can take over and users can continue to work without interruption. The organisation's firewalls and wireless access points were upgraded too. Abtec chose Cisco equipment to help deliver market leading security.

Disaster recovery audits

Buckingham Building Society takes the safe management of its members' data very seriously. To help it comply with its regulatory requirements, Abtec now provides regular disaster recovery testing. These audited tests provide evidence that the organisation can recover data, restore applications and continue to operate should an interruption occur.

The project was delivered on time and in budget. The Society now enjoys an IT infrastructure that has low running costs and the agility to make changes fast. Abtec provides ongoing support for the services, giving the Society the ability to spend more time running its organisation.

Kate comments "I'd certainly recommend Abtec to other building societies. The team's industry expertise and technology skills have enabled us to focus more resources on our members."

We provided:

- *IT strategy support*
- *Wide area network*
- *Virtualised data centre*
- *Thin client PCs*
- *Wireless infrastructure*
- *Firewalls*
- *Disaster recovery auditing*

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