S.J. Treloar & Associates Case Study

SJ Treloar & Associates Select All-inONE to Lower Costs and Increase IT Security

SJ Treloar & Associates, an Oxford-based firm of chartered building surveyors, has selected the All-inONE system to run its file server, email and internet access across their network of PCs. They chose a Linux-based product to lower the total cost of ownership and to protect themselves more effectively from the growing problem of virus attacks and spam.

SJ Treloar & Associates faced the issue that many SMEs discover when seeking to move from a peer-to-peer network of PCs to an integrated shared file server set-up. Stephen Treloar, Senior Part-

ner, explains, *"The firm was having issues – printer spooling errors, network protocol and significant security breaches leading to virus damage. At one point we effectively 'lost' the office for two or three days".*

He continues, *"We then spent some time looking at Linux as an open platform. We made some enquires and tested some of the systems to get an idea of the products available in the market place".*

The main concern for SJ Treloar & Associates when deciding which server to choose, was the concern that technical support was difficult to attain for Linux products. However they have been surprised by the simplicity of Linux and the amount of support and assistance provided with the product.

Stephen Treloar states, *"The company have supported their product online and with us directly. The benefits of a Linux server all contribute to our per-*

formance as a business. We now don't suffer from downtime, we have significantly reduced the amount of virus attacks, and we reduce costs by not having to purchase Microsoft licences".

Stephen continues, *"We concluded that Linux as a platform was likely to be more user friendly, and more accessible. It is retrospective technology, and is more stable in our environment than a Windows server. This system is relatively simple in terms of easy access, a useful web interface and its ability to run on low capacity machines."*

Of Special Note:

- *This is a Business critical application*
- *SJ Treloar have no Linux background or expertise*
- *The solution has expanded and grown with the company*
- *Two servers work alongside each other to provide nearly 1TB of on-line backup storage*
- *PC's are all Microsoft*
- *Minimal support issues with maximum uptime*

Support… Expansion… Upgrades.

Working with commercial clients, housing associations, local authorities, schools and education departments, SJ Treloar & Associates possess an unusually high number of files, including large architectural design CAD files and high density photographic images.

To support just such applications a RAID file server has been developed that sits on the network and allows flexibility with large volumes of data. It helps to free up any bottle-necks that may occur,

supporting the company as it continues to expand.

Stephen Treloar comments, *"The open source model very much suits us as a small business and makes far more economic sense than going down the Microsoft route – there's no need to purchase licences with the All-inONE server, and there's no downtime or any virus attacks of the nature that we had become used to when running Windows."*

There are further benefits for SJ Treloar & Associates in

that there is a continuous path of application development and upgrades as part of the contract, so they receive anti-virus updates, firewall upgrades and improvements to the interface as a matter of course.

Stephen concludes, *"I would suggest that all SMEs running networks that are looking to move from peer-to-peer to server-based file sharing should be aware that Linux is a very real option for them, and the All-inONE would be an excellent choice within this marketplace."*

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