

Client:

Autumn Foods is a vibrant, refreshing company that has been serving the European poultry markets for 12 years. The company prides itself on delivering the best quality poultry products to customer specification on time and at the right price by employing stringent quality control and an efficient logistics chain. This formula has led the company to grow at a remarkable pace. From their picturesque offices just outside Norwich, Autumn Foods offers its worldwide client portfolio a range of high-quality poultry products and services.



<http://www.autumnfoods.com>

Tel: 01603 882 772

Challenge:

Like many businesses that grow rapidly in a relatively short period of time, Autumn Foods IT system had started very simply and been added to as the company expanded. They felt the time had come to re-assess their IT with a view to implementing changes that would result in improved productivity and a more reliable, efficient system that centralized and simplified administration. The company was running individual workstations which were connected to a wired network. Each user stored their documents on their own computer which was then shared to other users on the network. Our goal was to migrate this peer-to-peer set-up to a Windows server based system that centralised network resources and simplified the storage and backup of company data. They also wanted remote workers to have the ability to logon to their network and access client data & documents in the same way users in the office could. Lastly, they asked us to reduce the high volume of Spam email they received.

Solution:

Kevin Shewell, a company director, gave us the task of evaluating their current system and proposing changes that would meet their goals. This had to be implemented with the minimum of disruption to their daily business operations. To this end, we installed a Windows 2003 Small Business Server which, amongst other things, provided Autumn Foods with the following:

- Centralised storage of company data on fault tolerant hardware to protect against data loss.
- Automated daily backup of company data to media that is kept off-site for protection against fire, flood, theft.
- A dedicated Microsoft Exchange mail server that brings the management of user's mailboxes in-house simplifying the maintenance of existing mailboxes and allowing for fast and easy creation of new mailboxes when staff join the company.
- Remote access to mailboxes via PCs & mobile phones so staff can read & respond to email out of office hours from any internet connected device.
- Improved organisation of company data and network resources. Company data is made available to staff via network drives mapped to each computer at logon. This enhances efficiency and security by enabling management to make only data that staff need available.
- Introduction of user templates. This provides user's with a consistent network environment based on their job role and makes adding new users to the network much simpler.

We also networked Autumn Food's Sage accounting system so the accounts department and finance director had joint access. We moved the client database to the server and configured it for automated daily backups. We directed their mail flow through our secure mail gateway to reduce spam levels and migrated their current internet connection to an ISP for improved performance and reliability. Lastly, we provided remote workers with the same network access local office staff had meaning they were able to work together from the same up-to-the-minute company data.

Everything was achieved within budget and in the 7day time scale agreed with very little disruption.