HURLINGHAM CLUB CASE STUDY

The Hurlingham Club were looking for an innovative archiving solution to manage their current data, that's when they turned to S3.













TRADITION & HERITAGE

The Hurlingham Club is also dedicated to providing modern facilities and services to its members and visitors. That's why, when they looked for a new data archiving solution, to initially manage email, and potentially to expand to manage document archival, they turned to S3.

"We first spoke with the Hurlingham Club about data storage," recalls S3's Services and Solutions Consultant, Ian Nave.

"During the course of that discussion we discovered that we could actually assist across a wide range of projects from Virtualisation to Virtual desktop infrastructures, Closed-circuit television and of course archiving and data back-up."

While initial dialogue around data storage soon proved superfluous due to the relatively recent acquirement of a new system, the conversation quickly turned to archiving and back-up solutions.

"In essence David (Appleton), the IT manager at Hurlingham explained that it was essential for them to find a repository that could store e-mails and file archives."



A CHALLENGE

The challenge with any project of this type focussed as much around cost effectiveness as manageability with the added caveats that any solution needed to be compatible with existing systems while providing one-hundred per cent data integrity.

"The last thing they wanted to do was implement a system that meant they had to expand the storage on the NetApp filer," said lan.

"The cost implication of doing that is considerable and in this instance my assessment was that it would've been totally unnecessary."

A SOLUTION FROM THE CLOUDS

What S3 and Ian did propose however, was a solution that met every one of their newest clients needs.

A system that offered a one-hundred per cent data guarantee, safety and security, cost effectiveness, transparency and crucially access to data within five minutes. In short, Arkivum; a cloud based archiving facility:

"To improve backup efficiency and more importantly recoverability it's normal to look at data to assess how old it is, when it was created and when it was last accessed. Anything that's old can be moved off your primary storage because it's pointless to back-up the same data day in day out when it's not being looked at," said lan.

"Some data has to be preserved and the obvious answer to this conundrum was to move data off tier 1 storage and send it across to something that was going to be a lot cheaper to maintain."





WHY **ARKIVUM?**

Founded in 2011, Arkivum is a relatively new provider in this area but S3's knowledge of the industry meant they had few concerns about using a company that is still in its infancy.

"Arkivum was formed as a spin-off from the University of Southampton's IT Innovation Centre, so while the company is new, the expertise and know-how is well established," continued lan.

"They have an excellent pedigree and outstanding reputation in the field of digital preservation. This comes from over a decade working with public and private sector organisations across Europe and they are renowned for being innovators and developing best practice for long term digital data preservation."

Arkivums A-Stor is unique in that it provides guarantees that so few conventional cloud-storage solutions offer. Utilising a gateway appliance that sits on a customer's network- security is maintained by the automatic encryption of all data before it leaves the site.

Once the data moves to A-stor, it is automatically checked to ensure that it is identical to the file that leaves the network. The digital archive then creates three encrypted copies of the same data which is transferred on to IBM tape infrastructure.

Two are held in automated tape libraries in different geographic locations while the third is locked away off-line via a secure escrow service. This additional benefit means that customers like the Hurlingham can rest assured in the knowledge that their data is safeguarded whatever the future may bring.

"S3 has provided us with an excellent solution and great confidence that our data is being properly maintained through Arkivum," said David Appleton, IT manager at the Hurlingham Club.

"We have a small IT team so it was crucial that whatever system was implemented was efficient and economically viable."

"In-house options were not a consideration. They require ongoing capital investment and place a burden on staff due to the significant amount of human input into the process. We wanted to avoid that, as well as the time constraints associated with traditional in-house tape back-up and involving a tape management company."

"Arkivum gives us the ability to restore our data online quickly, easily and with a minimum of fuss."



ABOUT S3

S3 is one of the UK's leading Big Data and Virtualisation Infrastructure Specialists. We strive to be technically independent and positioned amongst our client base as a thought leader and trusted advisor.

Formed in 1988, we deliver a consultative led solution, focussed on vertical market segments with an extensive knowledge of end user workflows as well as industry best practices. With true vendor independence, S3's capabilities extend from full on and off-site managed storage solutions through to simple tactical purchases. We research 'best of breed' storage solutions from a portfolio of established and trusted vendors as well as continually considering new emerging technologies to find the best fit - both technically and by value - for our clients. Our clients are diverse; ranging from small to medium organisations to large blue chip enterprises.

We pride ourselves on being a 'relationship' organisation that encourages and cultivates close partnerships. The difference lies in our ability to take a consultative and storage-centric approach to identify and address the specific needs of our customers. Our long-standing customer relationships are built upon our ability to provide excellent levels of customer service that we ourselves would expect. This provides our customers with the confidence that we can ensure that not only do we cater for the needs of today, but that we enjoy a shared vision of the future whilst our performance, in matching up to their expectations, is reflected in their loyalty.

For more information visit www.s3.co.uk

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