



*How a Gloucestershire legal practice benefited by implementing a VMware virtual infrastructure solution.*



*“We engaged the services of SDT to resolve our IT issues, they are always very attentive to our requirements and the staff of SDT always go that extra mile.*

*Our new IT systems are now enabling us to achieve hot desking and remote access, which we have been trying to achieve for a very long time.*

*It is our firm belief that our choice of SDT as our implementation partner for this project was a good one.”*

**Peter Davies**  
**Managing Partner**

## *VMware vSphere 4 Virtual Infrastructure and Citrix XenApp Thin Client Implementation* *for*

### **Davey Franklin Jones Solicitors**

#### *Business Situation*

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DFJ Solicitors are a growing and dynamic Gloucestershire legal firm, providing expert legal advice to private individuals and businesses.

Established as solicitors in Gloucester since 1886 and in Cirencester since 1946, DFJ are proud of their long history in providing practical legal solutions to clients in Gloucestershire and beyond.

DFJ's IT systems were built on Microsoft Windows 2003 Domain had evolved over a number of years; both offices had separate IT solutions and operated independently with some replication of data between offices for practice management applications. The systems in general had become unreliable, the information exchange between offices was failing and as a result, the risk to the practice was rapidly increasing. To overcome these problems, DFJ engaged the services of SDT Ltd to provide a solution that was cost effective and centralised allowing staff to seamlessly operate from either office or to work remotely, if required.

#### *The Challenge*

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DFJ, being a very busy legal practice, could not sustain any further system downtime. SDT prepared a detailed design and project plan to implement the new IT infrastructure and migrate the existing systems into the new virtual server environment in discreet phases to ensure that the systems were available during the transition. The phases consisted of implementing the new virtual server infrastructure, rebuilding and migrating the relevant application servers and finally converting the environment to Citrix XenApp thin client. The phases took place out of hours when necessary to ensure that business disruption was kept to a minimum.

The solution consisted of VMware vSphere 4 and Citrix XenApp, Active Directory Domain upgrade to 2008 and the implementation of Microsoft Exchange 2007. VMware was chosen as all the current servers were old, failing and needed replacing. To replace the servers on a like for like basis was not cost effective and to consolidate the infrastructure through virtualisation was the most prudent approach. In view of the necessity to hot-desk and the requirement for remote workers, the traditional “client-server” solution would be more difficult to manage and would not have provided the required performance over lower speed leased lines and ADSL communications. The options proposed for a thin client solution were either Citrix XenApp or XenDesktop. In view of standard application requirements throughout the practice, Citrix XenApp was the chosen solution.

#### *Business Benefits*

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Since implementation, DFJ have realised numerous benefits. Their IT infrastructure has witnessed increased reliability, performance and business continuity and DFJ are now in a position to support existing and growing business needs.