

Beaulieu

Client Overview

Situated in the New Forest, the 7,000 acre Beaulieu Estate houses a number of businesses including the visitor attractions of Buckler's Hard, where some of Nelson's fleet was built and The National Motor Museum containing one of the largest collections of historic vehicles in the world.

Challenges faced

Back in 1999 Beaulieu Estate Finance Director, Russell Bowman, realised that he would have to seek professional advice to ensure that the IT systems within the Estate could continue to meet the demands of the business in the new millennium.

Taylor Made were invited to conduct an audit of the IT systems and provide Beaulieu with proposals on the requirements to overcome not only the Y2K issues being faced, but to present the Estate with a strategic way ahead for the future.

After the initial audit it was clear that the major challenge would be to integrate the various systems within the Estate. In addition, out of the 50 PCs on site, there were 21 different brands!

The audit also highlighted that there were a number of diverse platforms in operation;

these included clusters of PCs and Apple Macs dedicated to specific tasks. The design goal was to integrate both platforms onto a consolidated, stable and scalable e-mail and data system.

One approach would have been to implement an entire Wide Area Network (WAN) immediately. However, the financial constraints of the organisation (which is based partly on charitable status), required that a strategic three year plan be implemented to upgrade, standardise and connect the various systems over a WAN. In order to extend the life of the older PCs some were re-allocated to areas of lighter usage as new PCs were introduced.

Results

The three year plan was based on Taylor Made assessing the viability and suitability of all hardware and software and then producing a rolling replacement plan to maximise the life cycle of all equipment.

At the same time a programme of infrastructure development was implemented that included 4 HP ProLiant servers, a fibre optic backbone and WAN links to all of the outlying offices. After 3 years, the network now boasts industry standard HP PCs throughout; these will have a very low support overhead during their lifetime.



The best thing about Taylor Made is that they talk our language and don't blind us with techno-speak

Russell Bowman, Beaulieu



The Beaulieu IT infrastructure has become a sophisticated and powerful tool that provides consistent and reliable data to all users. The infrastructure has been deployed on time and within budget. As an ongoing commitment to stability and development Taylor Made undertake regular monthly planning meetings to review the Estate's strategic IT needs.

Russell Bowman is very clear on how the new system has impacted on the Estate's business. "Our investment in a reliable IT system has enabled our business to successfully move forward. We have progressed a long way in three years with the help of Taylor Made."

Future

As the cost of broadband communication continues to fall it has now become viable for the Estate's network to be remotely monitored from Taylor Made's offices in Fareham. Russell Bowman adds, "The real benefit is that Taylor Made will constantly monitor our system providing us with the knowledge and security that the network is in safe hands".

The infrastructure is designed to accommodate new business applications and services where appropriate to the ongoing expansion and development of the Estate.

