

Hitachi Storage Solutions at Work

Forsters LLP

INDUSTRY Legal

SOLUTIONS Capacity and Business Continuity/Disaster Recovery: Hitachi Adaptable Modular Storage 500 and services from Hitachi TrueNorth Channel Partner Intercept IT

High Flying Legal Storage

A leading London law firm, Forsters provides a wide range of services to corporate clients and private individuals. With roots stretching back over 100 years, it prides itself on its longstanding client relationships and delivering dynamic services to meet today's legal challenges.

Its lawyers rely heavily on unstructured forms of content like Microsoft® Office applications and e-mail to carry out their roles. Consequently, the IT team had begun to notice a trend of steadily increasing volumes of data being stored, particularly e-mails and Adobe PDF documents.

"Regulations demand that legal organisations protect all their digital content, usually for a long time," explains AJ Meade, IT manager at Forsters. "So we needed to ensure our live SAN and backup environment could keep up with this anticipated growth in data volume by upgrading our storage infrastructure. Otherwise, we faced needing to replicate more than we had capacity for in our disaster recovery resource." As well as significantly increasing its storage capacity, Forsters wanted to speed up its live SAN in order to optimise employees' productivity and client response time.



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*AJ Meade
IT Manager,
Forsters LLP*



The Solution

Having worked on many projects in the past with solutions provider Intercept IT, Forsters turned to it again for support with upgrading its storage architecture. The two companies worked together to evaluate a number of options before Meade and his team chose to purchase a Hitachi Adaptable Modular Storage 500 system for its live production environment. Detailed planning meant that the installation of the new product was completed quickly, smoothly and with no downtime.

“We were very impressed with Hitachi’s strong reputation and commitment to continuous R&D,” says Meade. “The support offered to us by Hitachi Data Systems and Intercept was second to none. We’re not a

24/7 company, but with remote monitoring we know that even if there is an issue with a disk in the SAN out-of-hours, the team at Hitachi Data Systems will respond straight away so there’s a replacement waiting for us when we get to work the next day.”

The Business Benefits

Since deploying the Hitachi Adaptable Modular Storage 500 system, Forsters has noted a significant improvement of 30 percent in the response speed of its SAN. This means that files are made available more quickly to lawyers, enabling them to deliver the most timely service to their clients. At the same time, the increased storage resource means the company is well prepared for future growth.

The IT team has also found that their jobs have been made easier. “Although we’ve almost quadrupled the capacity of our SAN — from 3.6TB to 14TB — the platform is much more intuitive and simple to manage,” comments Meade. “The console is very user friendly and our infrastructure team is really feeling the benefits of spending less time on administrative tasks and more on innovation and optimisation of the business platform.”

As a next step, Meade and his team expect to purchase more Hitachi technology to enhance the company’s disaster recovery resources in support of its new live SAN.

Hitachi Data Systems Corporation

Corporate Headquarters 750 Central Expressway, Santa Clara, California 95050-2627 USA
Contact Information: + 1 408 970 1000 www.hds.com / info@hds.com

Asia Pacific and Americas 750 Central Expressway, Santa Clara, California 95050-2627 USA
Contact Information: + 1 408 970 1000 www.hds.com / info@hds.com

Europe Headquarters Sefton Park, Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire SL2 4HD, United Kingdom
Contact Information: + 44 (0) 1753 618000 www.hds.com / info.emea@hds.com

Altrincham Hamilton House, Church Street, Altrincham, Cheshire WA14 4DR, United Kingdom
Contact Information: + 44 (0) 161 928 4243 www.hds.com / info.uk@hds.com

Bristol 100 Park Avenue, Aztec West, Bristol BS32 4TS, United Kingdom
Contact Information: + 44 (0) 1454 625 511 www.hds.com / info.uk@hds.com

Edinburgh 11 Rutland Square, Edinburgh, Scotland EH1 2AS, United Kingdom
Contact Information: + 44 (0) 131 228 4343 www.hds.com / info.uk@hds.com

London Hitachi Data Systems, 50 Liverpool Street, London EC2M 7PR, United Kingdom
Contact Information: + 44 (0) 207 392 8500 www.hds.com / info.uk@hds.com

West Midlands (Birmingham), 6220 Bishop’s Court, Solihull Parkway, Birmingham Business Park, Birmingham B37 7YB, United Kingdom
Contact Information: + 44 (0) 121 717 4000 www.hds.com / info.uk@hds.com

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