

Case Study

Client: GIA



Overview

Location
UK

Industry
Surveying
and Design
Consultancy
(Professional
Services)

Services Provided
Microsoft Office 365
Solution set-up
Data migration

Website
www.gia.uk.com

GIA switches to the Cloud with Office 365 for more resilient, agile IT

Office 365 opens up a bright new world of secure productivity

GIA's Iain Major, Associate Partner & Head of IT, tell us, in the first person, his experience with Office 365 which has given security peace of mind and 100% scalability - transforming productivity right across the business.

Business Needs

“We were experiencing significant stability and performance issues with our aging IT infrastructure...users were consistently operating at their limit.”

Established in 1993, GIA's vision of being proactive, strategic and innovative remains at the heart of what we do today. Operating across 2 London sites, we are now over 100-strong and have steadily grown year-on-year.

At the beginning of 2013, we were experiencing significant stability and performance issues with our aging IT infrastructure, including Exchange 2003. By the nature of our business, we work with large design files which are shared outside of the company with a wide range of customers and partners.

Our mailbox sizes were very restricted, and a large number of users were consistently operating at their limit, having to manually archive to get large emails out. 90% of the company is on billable time, so this was having a big impact on performance and profitability.

Two catalysts for change emerged at the same time - imminent 'end of support' for our Exchange server and upcoming renewal of our Microsoft Volume Licensing agreement. It was the perfect point to review what new future-proof IT solutions were available.

Quote

“We’ve reduced our licensing, training and hardware costs significantly, and spread-payments allow us to manage expenditure more efficiently.”

Iain Major
Associate Partner &
Head of IT

Microsoft Partner

Gold Hosting
Gold Cloud Platform
Silver Cloud Productivity



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Solutions

Office 365’s simpler licensing model and advantageous price point, combined with the ease of administration, dependability and security, future upgrade rights and Microsoft support, made it an unquestionable choice.

Microsoft Partner, Sol-Tec, designed the solution for us, tested interoperability with our in-house applications, provided a pilot migration and delivered the initial service configuration.

GIA has been fully operational on Office 365 since February 2013. We use **Exchange online** throughout the company for email, calendaring and tasks, which we extend with **SharePoint** for team calendaring and collaboration. Our users are taking advantage of a richer web mail experience and the introduction of Public Folders has been pivotal in helping us manage our large content assets more efficiently.

Benefits

- We’ve reduced our licensing, training and hardware costs significantly, and spread-payments allow us to manage expenditure more efficiently.
- We’re more agile: by providing the partners with the same software across all their devices, they can work anywhere and be as productive as they would be in the office. As our business continues to grow, we know our IT infrastructure can now easily flex in and out as required.

Office 365

Office 365 is much more than Office in the cloud. It’s a package of apps and services that includes Microsoft Office 2016, Skype for Business, and OneDrive for Business.

Office 365 empowers your employees to work securely from any location on any device. To stay productive anywhere anytime.

Office 365 puts the user at the hub of your IT. One user license lets your people install Office 365 apps on any five iOS, Windows or Android devices.

Office 365 gives your business tools like video conferencing and cloud document storage alongside Microsoft Office apps you’re familiar with.

Delivered as a cloud subscription, Office 365 is managed in the cloud and backed-up by extreme built-in security.

Whether you are a small organisation with limited IT resources or a large organisation with advanced IT needs, Office 365 has solutions optimised for business size and IT needs.

