



Solutions 4 Business was founded by an experienced Chartered Accountant and company doctor, John O'Mahony, in 2003.

Solutions 4 Business, based in Maidenhead are specialists in working with small and medium sized businesses, providing solutions from routine statutory compliance work to their main focus which is on business turnaround services.

'Systems Architecture ensured we had the right IT solution when upgrading our IT infrastructure, providing a system with a clear upgrade path for the coming years...'

John O'Mahony
Managing Director
S4B

Background:

Systems Architecture Ltd (SAL) was commissioned to design and install a system for a new client 'Solutions 4 Business' (S4B), based in Maidenhead.

S4B are not your typical firm of UK chartered accountants as they work with a number of businesses acting in the outsourced role of financial director. Although their office is based in Maidenhead many of their consultants work remotely from client sites.

In the past S4B had outsourced their all of their IT infrastructure - both hardware resources and software applications. Back-ups and data storage had all been managed remotely. Moving into new premises prompted the review of their IT strategy primarily aiming to reduce their operating expenditure and incorporate the flexibility of managing their applications in house.

S4B were aware of the reputation SAL have in this industry sector and some of SAL's existing clients.

Project:

With a reputation for project managing systems implementations in this sector and specialising in tailoring enterprise solutions for smaller businesses, SAL proposed a number of options that would suit the required outcome, mindful to meet S4B's immediate requirements whilst maintaining the long term, bigger picture.

S4B needed assurance that existing applications and data would be migrated seamlessly to the new platform.

As a predominantly mobile employee workforce, often based from their own clients sites, S4B wanted to ensure that mobile email remained a priority, remote working was always available, and all data was securely and centrally available and backed up quickly with instant granular recovery.

Solution:

As S4B do not employ an on-site technician the decision was taken to implement a hybrid on-premise plus cloud solution adopting **Microsoft Office 365** hosted solution guaranteeing that their email would be always available everywhere, on any of their devices (laptops, phones, iPads etc.) and always on the latest version. For regulatory compliancy, S4B are confident that their email is backed up and maintained by Microsoft directly.

To accommodate their in-house applications, an **HP ML350** server was deployed utilising **Microsoft's Hyper-V** technology to create two virtual servers: the first running **MS SBS Essentials 2011** to host their accountancy and marketing packages, and the second server setup as a **Microsoft RDS** (Remote Desktop Server) offering access to these applications by their mobile employees.

This solution was protected utilising a **Sonicwall Firewall** and in-house **Sophos AntiVirus**.

Through the provision of professional training in house personnel can now undertake basic administrative tasks of installing and updating new user accounts etc. and the design of this new infrastructure allows the more complex administration and support systems to be remotely managed and supported by Systems Architecture.

Benefits:

S4B have noticed, since installation, a noticeable gain in efficiency, productivity and organisation within the company.

Using a hybrid model S4B can continue to use locally installed familiar software and processes, including Sage, **CCH Accounts Production**, **CCH CorTax** etc whilst seamlessly integrating with the Office 365 cloud solution. Moving forward, the centralisation of data ensures complete business protection and backup, with greater ability to collaborate as a team.

Utilising SBS Essentials 2011 from Microsoft as the underlying platform simplifies IT for smaller businesses by reducing complexity, thereby increasing business productivity, and reducing S4B's IT costs.

Systems Architecture's implemented solution gives S4B more flexibility, more manageability, more security and faster access to their data. It enables S4B to focus on their core business competencies without the need of becoming technology experts.