

An Infrastructure as a Service Case study

JR Rix & Sons Ltd

The Situation

J R Rix & Sons Ltd is a family-owned business, headquartered in Hull, East Yorkshire.

With a company history dating back to 1873, today J R Rix and Sons Ltd is involved in a variety of activities, including commercial, residential and marine fuel distribution, stevedoring, ship owning, fuel cards, warehousing and off shore wind farm support to holiday home manufacturing, car retail and property through a number of subsidiaries, of which the largest is Rix Petroleum Ltd.

Additional subsidiaries also include Rix Shipping, Rix Shipping (Scotland) Ltd, Rix Heating Services, Rix Sea Shuttle, Maritime Bunkering, Jordans Cars, Rix Truck Services; Fuelmate and Victory Leisure Homes.

With a group turnover of over £500 million, the company regularly appears in the Sunday Times' Top Track 250 and was ranked 38th in 2015.

Virtual Operating Environment Offered Clear Advantages

When the IT department at Rix decided that an update of their IT systems was appropriate they elected to work with Leeds based virtualDCS to install a virtual operating environment offering several clearly identified advantages.

Commenting on the project, Paul Codd, Rix's Assistant IT Manager remarked: "when demand for more servers arose the virtual environment looked the most promising solution as opposed to purchasing additional physical servers.



The Response

Following discussions with virtualDCS we decided to migrate our 30+ servers to a VMware vSphere platform consisting of 3 high spec hosts using HP Proliant servers and an expandable HP fibre channel storage solution, initially with 3 disk shelves.

This allows us to vMotion across the hosts when demand for CPU/RAM is needed without any impact on our users, specifically the successful outcome we were seeking.”

Additional Benefits Achieved

Expanding further Paul went on to say, “additional benefits arising from this project included a power reduction to the server room which helped to reduce

our carbon footprint, and lower operating costs, both major factors in our original decision making process.”

Commenting on other improvements also initiated as part of the project, Paul stated, “when we migrated the servers across to a virtual environment, and again working alongside virtualDCS’s consultants, we also upgraded from a windows 2003 to a Windows 2008 domain as well as from Exchange 2003 to Exchange 2010.”

The Result

Concluding Paul noted, “one of the most satisfying aspects of this project was that we achieved all that we had set out to accomplish with virtually no down time.

virtualDCS offered invaluable support here and proved to be extremely knowledgeable concerning the implementation of the latest technologies.

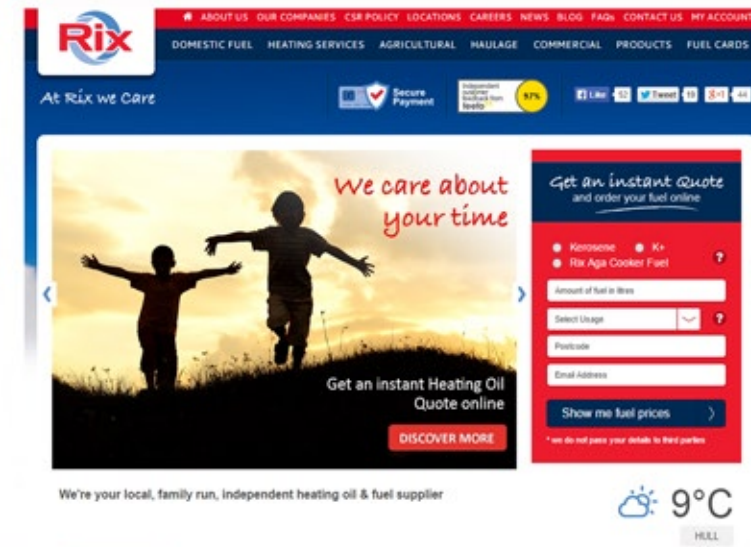
Their people definitely made the process a much smoother and easier goal to achieve within the timescales. We are very pleased indeed with the final outcome and the ongoing commitment to service we receive as part of the company’s “proactive” support package.”

For more information on JR Rix and Sons, please visit www.rix.co.uk.

About virtualDCS

The founders of virtualDCS have pioneered the development of the Cloud Computing industry for over a decade. As one of the first companies dedicated to Cloud services in the world, our customers are confident that they only receive the finest solutions.

Our approach is to work in partnership with our clients to ensure that their infrastructure is ready to exceed the service levels demanded by their business.



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