



Soha Housing:

Soha Housing gains operational efficiencies thanks to new virtualised IT platform from Mobius Business Technologies Limited.

Soha Housing is a successful, award-winning, community-based housing provider working in and around South Oxfordshire since 1997. Soha is a social landlord and a not-for-profit business which provides homes for affordable social rent, including shared ownership. Any surplus Soha makes is reinvested to develop new homes and look after their neighbourhoods.

Soha's 6,300 properties extend from Royal Wootton Bassett in the west to Marlow in the east, and from Banbury in the north to the river Thames in the south.

Soha has been increasing its investment in IT over the last 19 years to meet the requests of an increasingly demanding business. With the steady expansion of its social housing, shared ownership, sheltered housing, Extra Care facilities and student accommodation, this investment has supported a growing number of industry standard housing software applications and utility programs.

As its hardware and software requirements became more complex and IT even more business critical, Soha decided the time was right to find a reliable and reputable IT services provider who could help it with ongoing upgrade and project work.

Commenting on his decision to work with Mobius Business Technologies Limited (Mobius), Simon Williams, Soha's Infrastructure Manager, said: "Having thoroughly researched potential providers, we were really impressed with Mobius's depth of knowledge, experience and professionalism. We felt they were the best match to meet both our current and future requirements."



www.soha.co.uk

Company profile

- Leading housing provider
- Successfully building strong and sustainable communities
- Passionate about housing and working with residents to provide the very best customer service

Why Mobius Business Technologies Limited?

- Virtualisation and Cloud computing specialist
- Value added customer service
- Knowledgeable staff

Benefits

- A robust and resilient IT infrastructure
- Future proofed scalability
- Operational efficiencies



Legacy Servers & Mission Critical Applications

Soha's original IT infrastructure consisted of a range of individual HP and Sun legacy servers, totalling around 20, with each managing different areas of the company's network and system processes. Although these had been performing very well for many years, the company began to notice gradual wear and tear in a number of its machines; they would need replacing if they were to maintain the high levels of service reliability that their users had become accustomed to. Following consultation with Mobius, it was suggested to Soha that they could cost effectively enhance the overall efficiency and management of their IT infrastructure by consolidating their existing server units into a virtualised environment.

"Due to the important nature of our housing systems, we needed a provider that could move our entire IT infrastructure from one built on an older, mixed, Windows and Solaris based architecture, to a more resilient, robust and highly scalable one. We also needed the installation to be smooth and not adversely affect our business or residents. Mobius's recommendation to move to a virtualised platform met our needs perfectly."

"We were really impressed with Mobius's depth of knowledge, experience and professionalism"

Simon Williams
Infrastructure Manager
Soha Housing



Benefits of a Virtualised IT Environment

Mobius project managed and executed the transition to a virtualised environment. Following this Soha was soon benefitting from three new HP servers running VMware, a pair of new HP switches, a new HP Storage Area Network (SAN) repository, and Veeam Backup and Replication on their Production site, backing up to a single new, larger capacity, DR server, at another Soha site a few miles from it's HQ.

With the three new VMware servers now each capable of managing all the original legacy server units, Soha has gained a more resilient and robust IT infrastructure. This combined with the faster Veeam backups, and offsite replication, has given them full business continuity, with significantly improved restore times.

Value Added Service

Since it first began working with Mobius in 2014, Soha has continued to be impressed with the company's account management, knowledgeable and hands on approach, continuous development, and ongoing support.

Williams also commented, "The Mobius team are really helpful and always on hand to provide support whenever we have needed it. Their value added approach has also been hugely beneficial. They've offered advice on aspects we may not have considered before, and suggested different approaches to solving a particular issue - based on sound technical knowledge and a deep understanding of our IT strategy."

Thanks to the virtualisation of its IT infrastructure, Soha stands to make significant savings through reduced hardware support costs, lower maintenance bills and less power usage. In addition, the benefits of having a leaner and easier to manage IT infrastructure will help the company going forward.

"The virtualisation and upgrade work has helped us to enhance system efficiencies considerably, and we are already benefitting from a more integrated approach to IT throughout the business that will help us significantly in the future."

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Simon Williams
Infrastructure Manager
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