

Customer Requirement: Centralised accounting system, reduced paperwork and central data

Armco Solution: Remote desktop application, document management and server

Armco lifts Zarafa's office efficiency to new heights



Sky Climber Wind Solutions Ltd

Zarafa Holdings is a UK business with interests in access, maintenance and engineering. Subsidiary companies provide a range of services for temporary and permanent suspended access systems throughout the UK.

Armco was called in when Zarafa Holdings needed to centralise its accounting operation. Although the head office was being relocated to Yorkshire, the company wanted to continue to run the accounts system from Cheltenham.

Armco's solution was to use Microsoft's Remote Desktop application to enable them to control their Sage Accounts computer remotely from any location. Once installed behind a robust firewall, the host computer running Sage Accounts could be run securely over the Internet as if the users were actually present in the same room.

Armco then installed the INVU Document Management System to authorise and track sales invoices from all sites. This has drastically reduced the amount of paperwork that the company circulates as well as keeping a log of all transactions.

To continue their IT development plan, Zarafa Holdings asked Armco to look at a centralised data system for the entire company. Zarafa Holdings runs eight depots around the UK, including two major maintenance offices in Croydon and Manchester.

The system not only had to accommodate INVU and Sage, but the Inspire Rfid hire tagging system to manage the hire of equipment as well as Zarafa Holdings' day to day office applications and e-mail. The system now includes a Windows Server 2003 Domain Controller as well as a Windows Server 2008 Terminal Server for users to run multiple applications on the same server across the Internet from many remote locations. To cope with emails, Armco has added a Microsoft Exchange Server to replace Zarafa Holdings' existing POP mail system. This allows users to access emails, contacts and diaries from any location and from any device or media.

"The expansion of our company means that our business is now based at a number of sites throughout England and Scotland. The servers, applications and solutions installed by Armco have allowed data to be accessed by everyone who needs it and from anywhere, with strict control over who can access what. Armco are continually suggesting ways in which our IT can keep up with our expansion and this ultimately is helping our business to grow."

Daniel Armitage, Finance Director



Suspended Cradle project in London