



MONEYWEEK ENSURE HIGH AVAILABILITY, IMPROVED DR AND EASE OF MANAGEMENT WITH MICROSOFT EXCHANGE 2010 MIGRATION

MoneyWeek is the UK's best selling financial magazine.

Published every Friday, it is a weekly investment magazine that covers financial and economic news and provides commentary and analysis across UK and global markets. It is the best, most powerful read for anyone interested in defending and growing their wealth in Britain today.

Around 100 staff are employed at the MoneyWeek Head Office in London, where the magazine is produced and edited.

Project Summary

Industry:
Publishing

Challenges:

- MS Exchange 2003 platform out of support
- Significant mailbox growth
- Management of MS Exchange 2003
- Need to build a more scalable email infrastructure
- Cost of maintaining ageing server estate

Solution:

- MS Exchange 2010 for 300 mailboxes
- Kemp Virtual LoadMaster
- VMware vSphere
- Open-E DSS V6 SAN Software

Benefits:

- Flexible and reliable messaging platform
- Improved failover and DR capability
- Reduced storage costs
- Enhanced mailbox backup and recovery
- Integrated mailbox archiving

System Professional working as a Microsoft Certified Partner

System Professional working as a KEMP Technologies Partner

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Project Overview

System Professional originally met with Alan Smith, Systems Manager at MoneyWeek, to provide technical consultancy for his Exchange 2003 email platform. Alan was looking for specialist help to reconfigure his Exchange environment and upgrade the associated HP server infrastructure.

"With the upgrade to Exchange Server 2010, System Professional has helped MoneyWeek to consolidate our messaging infrastructure into a highly available and scalable environment."

Alan Smith, Systems Manager

Alan then contacted System Professional when he was looking to upgrade to Exchange 2010, since his Exchange 2003 platform was no longer supported. In addition, Alan explained how he was experiencing significant mailbox growth within the business and faced a number of management challenges with the Exchange 2003 platform.

MoneyWeek strives to provide the highest possible levels of system performance and availability to all users, especially with its e-mail system. A large portion of corporate communication is conducted through e-mail, with the system processing thousands of messages daily and supporting in excess of 300 mailboxes.

Solution

Alan explained how "Email was increasingly being used as a mission-critical tool within MoneyWeek and I needed to ensure we had a stable, resilient and scalable Exchange platform in place for the business. I was impressed with the high level Microsoft Exchange consulting from System Professional in the past, so they were the natural partner to use for the Exchange 2010 migration project."

Following a number of technical planning and scoping sessions with the System Professional project team, a revised design and project plan was agreed for the Exchange 2010 upgrade. This involved an initial server virtualisation of the existing MoneyWeek infrastructure using VMware vSphere and the introduction of two Open-E 4TB SANs.

The MS Exchange migration involved the creation of a new Exchange 2010 group in the virtual environment with two Exchange mailbox servers and two combined hub transport/client access servers. Following the new infrastructure deployment the Exchange migration was performed successfully.

For load-balancing purposes, a redundant pair of KEMP Virtual LoadMasters were installed into the newly virtualised MS Exchange 2010 environment to achieve fault tolerance and optimise performance. With Exchange 2010, client connections are now handled by the Client Access Server (CAS) and both external and internal Outlook connections must be load balanced across the array of CAS devices to ensure optimum performance. The KEMP LoadMaster family simplifies deployment of the complete portfolio of advanced messaging applications and protocols used by Exchange 2010.

System Professional also implemented a database availability group (DAG), a new capability in Exchange Server 2010. This combines on-site and off-site data replication into a single high-availability solution that reduces downtime. DAG provides automatic failover at the database level, without the complexity of traditional clustering that MoneyWeek had in place with Exchange Server 2003.

Outlook Anywhere was also deployed to enable remote clients to connect directly to Exchange using SSL without the need to connect via VPN.

Alan concluded that "With the upgrade to Exchange Server 2010, System Professional has helped MoneyWeek to consolidate our messaging infrastructure into a highly available and scalable environment. The new platform provides better support to our business users and has significantly reduced IT costs, from both a user support and hardware management perspective."



About System Professional

Formed in 2003, System Professional Ltd is a fully accredited Microsoft, VMware, Kemp and HP Partner with a dedicated focus on messaging, storage, virtualisation, backup and IT support services.

With a Head Office in East Sussex, System Professional supports a customer base across the UK.

For more information go to www.sys-pro.co.uk



About MoneyWeek

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For more information go to www.moneyweek.com



About KEMP Technologies

KEMP leads the industry in driving the price/performance value proposition for application delivery and load balancing to levels that customers can afford.

For more information go to www.kemptechnologies.com