

## CASE STUDY

### VIRTUALISATION UPGRADE IS A WINNER FOR FIFE HOUSING

Fife Housing Association (FHA) is a charitable organisation that provides quality homes at affordable rents across Fife and is committed to building communities and supporting the continued improvement of tenant's homes.

The organisation has over 2,300 houses and flats and seeks to improve the quality of life for everyone in Fife and narrow the inequalities between individuals and communities.

FHA took the decision to upgrade and refresh its five year old IT infrastructure to ensure that they continued to be properly equipped to achieve their strategic goals moving forward. They were looking for a flexible, easy to manage system that would offer scalability and robust disaster recovery.

Castle Computer Services recommended a VMware virtualisation solution that would allow FHA to reduce the number of servers it required, provide high availability for disaster recovery and at the same time deliver genuine cost effectiveness.

The installation of a VMware solution meant that FHA's growth requirements pushed an increase in server count from seven to thirteen. Twelve of these servers have been virtualised and consolidated down to only three physical VMware servers. There were

immediate benefits to the way backups were managed as only one backup tape is now required, whereas previously four tapes had to be changed every day. The existing system, running on Citrix, was at the same time upgraded to Exchange 2003 and Windows 2003.

**Sonia Raeburn, ICT Manager at Fife Housing Association said:**

"The professionalism that Castle has demonstrated throughout our long working relationship and their outstanding VMware credentials made them our first port of call when it came to reviewing our IT systems. We were highly impressed by their unique demonstration suite and immediately saw the impressive benefits that VMware could bring to Fife Housing Association."

**Alan Quinn, Managing Director, Castle Computer Services, added:**

"Castle supports over 50 Housing Associations throughout the UK and has supported FHA's IT infrastructure for many years. Following a VMware Capacity Planning exercise it was clear that FHA would make significant cost savings and efficiency gains with the introduction of Virtualisation technology. The Castle team ensured FHA has the best possible system to meet their needs."

Infrastructure Refresh

Scalability & Robust  
Disaster Recovery

Twelve Servers  
Consolidated to Three

Viewed Castle's  
Demonstration Suite

#### Contact us

For more information please contact Castle Computer Services on 0845 230 1314 or email [info@castle-cs.com](mailto:info@castle-cs.com)

