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Jcom secures Barhale's Storage Consolidation & Disaster Recovery project

Jcom UK Ltd has recently secured the development of Barhale's Storage and Server Consolidation and Disaster Recovery Project. Barhale is a leading civil engineering and infrastructure services contractor in the UK, with an annual turnover in the region of £110M.

In order to support its data growth and storage demands, Barhale required the creation of a stable and adaptable server and data storage infrastructure to replace and in some instances re-utilize its current infrastructure. Another requisite on this project was a Disaster Recovery solution that satisfied Barhale's business requirements for data retrieval. "Jcom worked closely with us, putting in the time and effort needed to ensure that the correct solution was provided. Their commitment to the project, technical delivery and understanding of our requirements made the selection process easy", says Mark Shaw, Senior IT Engineer, Barhale Construction.

Jcom was asked to address key areas such as server consolidation, centralised storage, backup of corporate data on laptops, disaster recovery of main IT services, good return on investment and enabling the IT department to add business value. After obtaining a better understanding of Barhale's environment, Jcom proposed a new storage and disaster recovery infrastructure based on VMware ESX and Compellent storage.

In the event of a site failure the infrastructure will enable critical servers to keep running and will ensure that core IT services are up and running within an acceptable timeframe

Jcom's proposed infrastructure will allow for the consolidation of existing physical servers onto a virtual platform. The virtual servers will be hosted on a VMware High Availability farm of servers providing redundancy and flexibility to the environment and protecting against hardware failure. Two servers will be connected to the central SAN solution at the primary site by a 4Gb Fibre Channel infrastructure. A third server running VMware will be installed at the secondary site to be used in the event of a site failure. This server will be able to run the business critical servers needed in the event of a site failure and will ensure that core IT services are up and running within an acceptable timeframe.

Jcom's proposed SAN solution will allow Barhale to take advantage of central management, increased optimization, tiered storage, lower management costs, increased security and higher availability of storage resources. Compellent SAN presents a unique solution as it can replicate from a fibre channel connected SAN to an iSCSI connected SAN with different disk technologies at each. This feature will enable a correct costing of infrastructure based on the site's role in a Disaster Recovery installation. The replication will also ensure that in the event of a site failure at the primary site all data will be accessible at the secondary site.

"Jcom is delighted to be working so closely with such a prestigious organisation as Barhale and we believe the solution that Barhale has chosen is not only best of breed, but will enable Barhale to have a very resilient, easy to use and adaptable storage and server infrastructure", says James Byrne, Managing Director of Jcom UK Ltd.

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