



Switching to a cloud solution could not have been easier thanks to Hosted Desktop UK Ltd.

Case Study Overview

Paul Scholes runs Atria Associates, an established accountancy practice based in Surrey. The firm offers tax, auditing and business advice to small and medium sized companies, as well as its portfolio of personal clients. Atria Associates also provides professional advice to accountancy firms.

The Situation

Until recently, Atria was using a small business server to fulfil its IT requirements, but due to the frequency of issues regarding its performance (the server stopped working for a week) Paul started to look for a more reliable solution.

Paul explains:

“The server simply packed-up - it was making a noise like a washing machine and, unfortunately, when it was turned back on, it sounded even worse. The week without IT caused major operational issues and it was at this point we knew we had to do something - it was just a case of establishing what was going to be the best solution for our practice.”

To purchase a new server and the required software, an investment of around £5,500 would have been needed.

“We are a small practice and parting with over five thousand pounds seemed like a big expense. It was at this point I started to really look at the opportunities presented by the cloud.”



NUMBER OF USERS

2-5



NUMBER OF OFFICES

2



MAIN APPLICATION

IRIS Accountancy Suite



SERVICES SUPPLIED

Hosted Desktop

Hosted Exchange

Backup to Site



Paul visited 'Accounting Web', an online forum community for accountants and found a section on the cloud.

"There were questions posted about which cloud provider to use and Hosted Desktop UK Limited (HDK) came up time and time again - feedback seemed very positive so I decided to give them a call and signed up with HDUK in April 2011."

Paul says that the switchover from the local server to the cloud took a matter of days and was "effortless". Commenting on the support offered by HDUK, Paul says the team at HDUK are "head and shoulders above the rest."

95% of contact is made via email and if Paul requests support or a software update even as late as 10pm, it is usually actioned within an hour or two. "In fact, now HDUK tells me that there is an update available rather than the other way round."

Paul was also looking for a flexible IT solution as he was looking to work from home and switching to the cloud has enabled Paul to work anywhere with an internet connection.

"I have used cloud computing in my home office, at a client's premises, in the car and even in our caravan and have never had a problem."

Paul understands that letting go of a physical server may be a challenge for some:

"It is a real leap of faith to leave behind something you've used for years, but any concerns I had vanished within a week."

Paul is happy to reassure anyone worried about safety of data too.

"If you really want to, you can backup to a local machine whenever you want."

Summary of Benefits:

Anywhere Access	✓
Cost Savings	✓
Efficient Migration	✓
Excellent IT Support	✓
Trusted Supplier	✓

