



NETWORK INTEGRITY SERVICES

Premier Forest Products

Supporting business growth with cloud technologies

Highlights

Solution

Cloud hosting for key enterprise systems

Benefits

Improved service levels, minimised business risk, increased scalability, reduced capital expenditure

Technologies

Microsoft SQL Server, Microsoft Exchange, Microsoft Windows Server, Microsoft Office, Microsoft Dynamics NAV, bisTrack

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Joe Walker
UK Managing Director
Premier Forest Products

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Premier Forest Products (PFP) is one of the UK's leading independent importers and distributors of timber and panels, serving both commodity and bespoke markets across the UK. During several years of organic growth, the company's turnover and headcount increased considerably, which resulted in a need for a more flexible IT infrastructure. By rethinking its technology strategy, the company has been able to meet and overcome the challenges presented by its rapid growth.

“We used to run our bisTrack ERP system and Microsoft Dynamics NAV accounting system on servers in our head office,” explains Joe Walker, Managing Director of PFP in the UK. “But as we grew, the business risk of downtime became an ever-greater concern. We don't have an internal IT team, so we were reliant on third parties if something went wrong, and any hardware outages would mean a loss of sales.”

The company decided to redesign its infrastructure on a cloud model. Its technology partner, Network Integrity Services (NIS) provided a highly scalable virtualised environment to host all the company's systems, from the Microsoft SQL Server databases that support bisTrack and Dynamics NAV, through to the Microsoft Exchange email servers.



“NIS has been an excellent partner for us over the years,” says Joe Walker. “The solution they proposed was absolutely right for our business: we get unlimited capacity at a fixed monthly cost per user and the peace-of-mind that comes from running our systems at a fully secured, professionally managed data centre.”

NIS handles all the server administration, backup, mirroring and related services, and also provides upgrades to the latest versions of the Microsoft software at no extra cost to PFP.

“Cloud-based services allow us to get back up and running very quickly in the event of a failure,” says Joe Walker. “Our insurance company is much happier with this situation, and we passed our bank's digital security audit with flying colours.”

Finally, the cloud solution has improved accessibility – PFP's systems can be accessed from any PC with an internet connection, or even from smartphones. Joe Walker comments: “Our directors regularly travel around the globe to meet timber producers and exporters. Now they can have all the latest figures at their fingertips, wherever they are in the world.”

“Growth is always a challenge from an IT perspective, and the cloud solution really helps to reduce the complexity of integrating new requirements into our existing landscape,” concludes Joe Walker. “The whole cloud strategy has been a great success.”