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Intelligent
Infrastructures

Aberdeen City Council

Linux File and Print Cluster and Upgrade to GroupWise 7

Home to a population of over 200,000 people Aberdeen is a thriving, cosmopolitan city in the North East of Scotland. Built at the mouth of two major Scottish rivers, the Dee and the Don, and covering an area of 188.46 square kilometres (72.76 square miles), the Granite City owes its distinctive appearance to the famous, locally quarried and widely exported, building material. Traditional industries such as fishing and farming still flourish in and around the city but Aberdeen's buoyant modern economy - reflected in unemployment rates consistently under 2% - is fuelled by the oil industry, earning the city its epithet as 'Oil Capital of Europe'.

Aberdeen City Council called upon NDS8 to carry out two particular tasks. The first was to implement a robust and reliable file and print architecture through the installation of a 6 node Novell Open Enterprise Server cluster running on the SuSE 9 Linux platform.

The migration from the existing Netware 6.0 platform to an open source Linux platform, ensures that Aberdeen City Council align themselves with future industry trends, and provide a high performance system for many years. To ensure that any downtime or disruption to users is minimal, NDS8 built the new cluster to run in parallel operation with the existing environment, with data being replicated from the NetWare 6.0 servers on a nightly basis.

NDS8 ensured that the new iPrint and existing NDPS infrastructures co-existed so that users could be moved to the new environment in a smooth and controlled manner. The second project NDS8 has fulfilled for the council was to upgrade its collaboration system to GroupWise 7 with a stronger emphasis on WebAccess.

The City Council was thinking of adding an additional 3500 education users coming in via WebAccess, so as well as upgrading, there was a need to rebalance the services to accommodate these additional users.

The key elements of the project were:

- Health check
- Planning workshop
- Migration support
- Upgrading GWanywhere
- Installing GWextranet
- Upgrading GWarchive

The project was based around processes which were designed to ensure minimal disruption to the users whilst implementing a solution which provides extra functionality and the opportunity to provide additional services to users such as mobility.