

Business Continuity Solutions - The Big Issue



'Seventeen years since its inception, The Big Issue continues to offer homeless and vulnerably housed people the opportunity to earn a legitimate income.'

The organisation is made up of two parts: a limited company which produces and distributes a magazine to a network of street vendors, and a registered charity to help those vendors gain control of their lives by addressing the issues which have contributed to their homelessness.

Bluecube have helped The Big Issue to design and implement a business continuity solution to ensure security and continuous operation in the event of a crisis.'

The Big Issue
www.bigissue.com



As one of the leading social businesses in the UK, The Big Issue is responsible not only for the production of an entertainment and current affairs publication but for the welfare of its vendors and distributors. Believing in offering 'a hand up, not a hand out' the charity recognises that earning an income is the first step away from the streets for many of the UK's homeless.



The Challenge

As the primary product, the Big Issue Magazine is the reason the charity is able to offer this 'hand up' to the homeless. Therefore, to ensure it doesn't disappoint those who rely on it, The Big Issue required a business continuity system to make sure that it could still operate in the event of an emergency. Without these measures in place, the production of the Big Issue magazine would be compromised.

The Solution

On instructing Bluecube, The Big Issue underwent an initial audit of their existing hardware, applications, and data management processes in order to assess their current IT infrastructure. Bluecube then set about planning and implementing both the physical migration of data and disaster Recovery solution.

'Out-sourcing this process has allowed the solution to be thoroughly tested and managed by Bluecube throughout, leaving us to do what we do best' Bav Puar, Group IT Director, The Big Issue.

Our Business Continuity solution uses a replication process to create a seamless flow of real time data, copied to a safe location that can be accessed instantaneously with no interruption. No downtime is required.

The Results

The Big Issue now enjoys a fully-managed, hosted solution with the support of the Bluecube service desk. Their journalists, editors, and production team have anytime access to the Bluecube Disaster Recovery suite should they need it. Provisions are in place to ensure that replicated data is accessible via the Disaster Recovery suite in a matter of minutes.

'Business Continuity is unlike simple back-up measures, you don't need to pick up the phone to launch your standby solution or need to rely on backup scripts to protect your data, its already there waiting for you' David Robinson, Technical Account Manager, Bluecube.

The Disaster Recovery suite lies behind one of the most valuable assets Bluecube can offer to its clients; security for their business.

Comments

'While Bluecube's support is not a tangible product, it has given us confidence and security for our business'. Bav Puar, Group IT Director, The Big Issue.

For more information on Business Continuity Solutions call 0845 257 8040 or visit www.bluecube.uk.com.