BACKBONE CONNECT

Streamlining IT costs, helping charities deliver a flexible and responsive service to their communities

? Create and manage a new MPLS network and hosting environment including centralised internet access and data centre hosting

✓ Improved connectivity and security with an MPLS that connects all sites to a centralised data centre

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Global IT Director, Cabrini Children's Society

CABRINI children's society

The Challenge

Founded over 125 years ago Cabrini has transformed the lives of vulnerable children, adults and families all over the UK through a range of adoption, foster care and family support services.

As part of a strategic review the charity was investigating methods to cut operational cost including a review of their aging IT infrastructure, server platform, desktops, WAN and internet access.

The existing setup was becoming costly to maintain via third party support companies as the equipment aged. The systems were also slow and becoming unreliable, which was affecting the Cabrini team's ability to work and causing frequent outages and downtime. This was ultimately costing the charity money in wasted hours, replacement equipment and increasing support premiums.

Backbone Connect were asked to review the existing infrastructure platform and provide a recommended solution that would deliver a robust and secure WAN, Internet and data centre platform. Naturally the solution had to offer the ability to scale as the charity expanded and the flexibility to adopt new technologies as they became available.

- ✓ Increased reliability to minimise downtime
- ✓ Reduced operational cost through new technologies
- ✓ Less requirement for third party support contracts
- ✓ Integrated, multi-site connectivity
- ✓ Centralised and simplified system design
- ✓ Ongoing support and maintenance

Our Solution

Backbone Connect created an MPLS network that connected each of the Cabrini locations using a range of access circuit types (including FTTC, EFM, ADSL and Ethernet) and carriers. By using the most appropriate combination of circuit and supplier for each site our solution drove down costs and ensured the route between each location and the MPLS core was as short as possible.

Within the MPLS network Backbone Connect provided colocation space and power within a Tier III data centre. This ensured the physical security needs of Cabrini were met through a sophisticated range of security measures including 24/7 on-site security, biometric access control, zoned access control, CCTV and more.

Internet access was provided from a central point within the MPLS network which reduced the need for multiple firewalls, cutting costs, improving security and simplifying the management overhead.

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This centralised and simplified design reduced complexity and cut the number of devices required, driving down the number of possible faults and points of failure.

Once approved, Backbone Connect provided a fully managed roll out service which included a seamless switch over from the old to the new, site by site. By aligning renewal dates with new circuit install dates there was no unnecessary duplication of service which helped keep the costs down during the migration.

Finally the whole solution was provided as a fully managed service including ongoing support and maintenance, which gave Cabrini a single point of contact and therefore less management overhead.