



SR CLOUD SOLUTIONS

CLIENT SUCCESS STORY

MDYLegal
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Embracing the Private Cloud

BACKGROUND

MDY Legal contacted SR Cloud Solutions in June 2017 in order to explore the viability of a transition to a cloud based solution. MDY's main requirement was to remove the reliance of 'on premise' servers which would give them the freedom to acquire a new office without the need for a dedicated server room. Additional requirements included a UK based managed IT service desk with custom SLAs, DRaaS and BaaS offerings.

After an initial assessment, SR developed a solution that fitted with MDY's requirements. The case study below provides an overview of the technologies utilised and the cost savings achieved. Benchmarking their legacy setup against the new environment (on SR's private cloud) shows a significant increase in performance & benefits such as:

- Super-Fast Internet speeds of over 1Gb download and 1Gb upload achievable from within the hosted Citrix session, over 50 times faster
- Market Leading Dell EMC all SSD backend storage providing IOPS of up to 390K, boosting application performance and productivity
- Connection to systems without a VPN, from anywhere in the world on any device
- Integrated market leading security solutions to enhance industry accreditations
- Flexibility in office location, without the need for a dedicated server room
- Removal of management of on premise hardware and 3-year cycle upgrades
- All software upgraded to the latest Microsoft software using O365 E3 and SR's SPLA licensing model
- A complete end to end solution including project management, migration, and support services

CUSTOMER PROFILE

MDY Legal is a multidisciplinary law firm providing legal advisory and governance services... Established in 1987, MDY Legal is widely known for its specialist understanding of government and the third sector in the UK, and in developing countries. MDY have developed a highly regarded expertise in advising on the structuring, establishment, public procurement, and financing of social and economic development initiatives, including corporate social responsibility (CSR) policies and projects for the private sector.

Some of the firm's high-profile domestic and foreign clients include:

- UK Government
- International Governments
- UK Public Authorities
- Academic Institutions
- Financial Institutions
- Social Impact Investors
- Private Companies
- Owners of Businesses
- Charities and NGO's

BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS

As a law firm, MDY must comply with industry standards regarding data protection and business continuity, and also show their clients that they maintain the highest possible standards. The company has several industry accreditations, including the Law Society's Lexcel, ISO 9001, and ISO 14001. Following the project, SR assisted MDY in gaining the National Cyber Security Centre, Cyber Essentials Certification

The company staff includes lawyers, development specialists, and support staff. MDY had a requirement to move to new offices, and remove the dependence of managing on premise servers.

Issues that MDY faced with on premise infrastructure included:

- Managing a dedicated server room
- Floor space and power issues
- Air conditioning/cooling requirements with adequate air flow
- Uninterrupted power supplies
- Ongoing hardware maintenance
- Three-year cycle upgrade costs

In addition, MDY wanted the freedom and flexibility in choice of office space on offer around the City of London, removing the requirement of a dedicated server room or rack, thus reducing office rental charges and power consumption costs considerably.

MDY contacted SR Cloud Solutions to migrate their entire on premise server infrastructure into the cloud¹. Part of MDY's core requirements were to have a reliable, scalable platform in which to grow, removing the hardware limitations of on premise servers. For security, MDY also required all servers to be replaced with new Microsoft 2016 Servers.

MDY required an integrated solution that allowed greater control and security over sensitive company data. Such control mechanisms would prevent staff from copying sensitive customer documents to their own devices, mitigating data loss and improving overall security.

An important component in maintaining the firm's accreditations is having a business continuity plan in place. For example, to test the systems every year, and to confirm effectiveness in the event of a catastrophic situation, staff must be able to access disaster recovery systems either from home or from an alternative office.

"We felt it was the right time to migrate our server infrastructure to a UK based private cloud provider, that would take us to the next level in terms of security, scalability, and reliability."



Tel: 020 3603 9960
Email: info@srcloudsolutions.co.uk
www.srcloudsolutions.co.uk



SR CLOUD SOLUTIONS

Nadeeka Victor, Practice Manager at MDY Legal, says, "As a law firm, data protection and security is very important to us. We wanted to promote a flexible way of remote working for our staff, and to remove the burden of managing on premise servers. At the same time tighten our data security in the process. In addition, we also wanted to ensure that our data backups and disaster recovery solutions are secure and reliable".

Nadeeka adds. "We felt it was the right time to migrate our server infrastructure to a UK based private cloud provider, that would take us to the next level in terms of security, scalability, and reliability."

THE SOLUTION (EMBRACING THE CLOUD)

MDY originally evaluated Azure, and a number of UK based private cloud service providers. They finally decided upon SR's Private Cloud as being the right solution, this was due to a number of key benefits over the competition:

KEY BENEFITS

- Latest Dell EMC Hardware – Fully Redundant Enterprise all SSD Storage
- No restrictions on IOPs
- Built using the latest VMWare Enterprise 6.5 platform
- Free dedicated Managed Firewall for each tenant with IPS/IDS
- 1 Free public IP address
- 24/7 Proactive monitoring with a 99.9% SLA uptime
- Simplified & Cost effective billing metrics
- FOC bandwidth with no inbound / outbound limits (zero outbound bandwidth charges unlike Azure IaaS)
- 15-minute support SLA with UK based engineers
- 2 x UK Tier 3 Datacentres both conforming to ISO 27001, 9001 standards
- Fully segmented tenants complying with ISO/IEC 27001
- Complete knowledge of which DC's / Location your data resides in for GDPR
- Capability of up to 10GB MPLS connectivity
- DRaaS and BaaS offerings available at affordable rates
- High speed Internet and Network Connectivity
- Fully managed setup of Citrix XenApp and RDS Gateway deployments for clients
- UK based 24/7 managed service desk with custom SLAs

As a **Citrix® CSP** and **Microsoft® Authorised CSP**, SR Cloud Solutions were able to provide MDY with a fully managed end to end solution, which comprised of consultancy, design, implementation, and full project management.



As part of MDY's IT transition to the private cloud, SR recommended implementation of **Citrix XenApp®** with an external storefront, secured using **OneLogin®** Multi Factor Authentication.

A secure document management technology **Citrix ShareFile®** was implemented to provide a means to share files securely.

The flexibility and security of Citrix technologies, also meant that remote staff can connect to a secure Virtual Desktop, this uses AES 256-bit encryption to access company resources and applications using personal BYOD devices.

Any internet access technology such as 3G, 4G or home broadband can be utilised without the need for a VPN. The solution allowed staff to work from anywhere.

Strengthening their security further, SR also upgraded MDY's Anti-Virus software to incorporate advanced DNS level protection. And a fully managed cloud based firewall with integrated Intrusion Prevention System (IPS) included FOC as part of the solution.

Diane Harris, Senior Partner at MDY Legal, says, "The Citrix solution has been amazing in providing a seamless way of working for all our staff. The benefits of the Citrix solution implemented by SR Cloud Solutions was highlighted on my recent overseas travel, I was able to work via my Citrix session, accessing my emails and business applications using a prepaid 3G connection, it was very fast and reliable, with zero dropouts."

Liam Davies, Senior Partner at MDY Legal, says, "I was surprised to find that our document management system is much more responsive, and so much faster on SR's private cloud than it was when running on premise, increasing productivity further."

SR Cloud Solutions also takes care of data backups for MDY via a fully managed Backup as a Service, with custom backup and retention policies, and 256-bit encryption. MDY are safe in the knowledge that their data backups are secure.

Disaster Recovery as a Service is provided through SR's 2 x Tier 3 Datacentres which are geographically isolated from one another, these utilise redundant WAN links, Cisco/VMware VXLAN architecture, and the latest Dell EMC Compute and Storage Hardware.

CLIENT SUCCESS STORY



TECHNOLOGIES UTILISED



CITRIX XenApp



Citrix NetScaler



Windows Server 2016



onelogin



COST EFFECTIVENESS

MDY Legal sees the value the SR Cloud brings to their business, this is in terms of scalability, reliability, security and continuity.

"Our IT systems are an important part of our business, without which our ability to operate would be reduced; the value SR Cloud Solutions provide with its private cloud offering is very important to us," says Nadeeka Victor. "Our IT costs have remained the same as MDY Legal was paying to our previous IT support provider, but SR has provided us with so much more, including a fully hosted infrastructure, with the latest software, and the flexibility to grow or shrink our environment as and when we need to," he adds.

Tim Yapp, Senior Partner at MDY Legal, says

"I would like to commend SR's professionalism and attention to detail, they made the transition to the cloud very easy, without any disruption to services. In addition, SR now provide our business with an outsourced Fully Managed Service Desk & IT Support Services, covering us from 8am to 8pm, 6 days a week."

¹MDY's previous on premise setup utilised DL380p G8 servers with Windows 2012 R2 Hyper V Host Server's, using 15k SAS drives in RAID 5 configurations. Remote working was provided via a Forticlient SSL VPN, with clients connecting to internal Server 2008 Terminal Services to access business line of applications.

