

Case Study:



Family & Children's Services Partners with Next Dimension

Family & Children's Services (FACS) is a children's aid society, mandated under Ontario's Child and Family Services Act to protect children under the age of 16 from child abuse and neglect. The agency is a private non-profit corporation formed and operated by concerned citizens in Elgin County and funded by the Province of Ontario.

The Challenge

When Family & Children's Services initially approached Next Dimension in early 2001, it had an aging IT infrastructure. None of the servers the environment were protected by a manufacturer's warranty, and there was a risk of significant downtime if there should be a hardware failure on any of these systems.

The Solution

To address these issues, Next Dimension proposed de-coupling the older servers from their underlying hardware through the use of VMware vSphere virtualization technology. Physical-to-Virtual (P2V) conversions were performed on the existing servers, and the new virtual machines were deployed onto a BladeCenter-S chassis with 2 blade servers.

The Results

When the project was completed, the number of potential failure points had been dramatically reduced, and all legacy hardware was decommissioned.

"Our project went very well," states Tom Timbrell, Manager of Information systems. "The project engineer was very knowledgeable and easy to work with. He communicated well throughout the entire project, always getting us involved when decisions needed to be made, making recommendations on the best course of action, and generally keeping us in the loop. We always knew where things stood, and what was happening next, and the results exceeded our expectations."

// What we appreciated most about Next Dimension was the level of professionalism, technical knowledge and flexibility. I wouldn't hesitate to recommend Next Dimension's services to other organizations who need help making a transition like this one. //

*- Tom Timbrell,
Manager of
Information Systems*