

# Project Profile



## IT Infrastructure

Network Systems • Consultancy • Implementation

*"We found ourselves using Excitech's quote as a benchmark to compare with others. Excitech are clearly knowledgeable and gave a convincing argument for what our next step should be."*

## Installing an IT Infrastructure

### The Requirement

Like many companies, Pre-Construct Archaeology's first network was a peer-to-peer (or server-less) network with shared storage on inexpensive Network Attached Storage (NAS) devices. With 50 staff working on separate networks and data stored on over a large number of NAS devices. Pre-Construct out-grew their network technology and contacted Excitech for advice on an overhaul.

### The Solution

Excitech studied Pre-Construct's network systems and proposed a structured network cabling solution, server and security appliances for their head office. This, together with a range of other enhancements, would integrate the separate business units into a single site-wide LAN and bring all data into one place.

### The Result

As a result of this IT Infrastructure refresh, Pre-Construct can manage users, computers, files and permissions centrally through Windows more easily. They now have a reliable and feature-rich email and groupware infrastructure based on Exchange Server; improving communications and collaboration with colleagues.

Pre-Construct Archaeology is one of the top five independent archaeological companies in the UK, specialising in providing appropriate solutions to a range of heritage problems within development schemes irrespective of their scale or nature. Originally operating from both London and Lincolnshire, the company has grown to five regional offices in the UK and around 100 employees.

Originally, Pre-Construct Archaeology had a small peer to peer network with Network Attached Storage (NAS) for data storage and to communicate with each other. As the company continued to grow, so did the number of NAS devices; and it was soon

apparent that the organisation would need something more manageable and suitable to their developing needs.

Graham Sherwood, IT Manager for Pre-Construct explained that "our biggest problem was fragmented data between the offices and the duplication of many documents, which meant finding the right information was a chore. Our business is all about data, so we cannot afford to lose any documents. Back-up was also a nightmare; if we had backed up all the data that we held, it would have taken around a month."

The organisation started to look into the possible options to resolve their issues, and gathered quotes from a range of different IT providers who each came back with a broad range of solutions. When reviewing all the quotes, it was Excitech's quote that stood out to Graham. "Excitech were very detailed in their quote, and covered all bases. We found ourselves using Excitech's quote as a benchmark to compare with others, as they had included things that others had not mentioned. Excitech are clearly knowledgeable and gave a convincing argument for what our next step should be."

Another factor in their decision was Excitech's extensive construction industry knowledge; Pre-Construct had confidence that their needs and work practices were understood.

Excitech suggested that the way forward would be to move to a network cabling solution to bring the separate business units together into a single site-wide LAN also with the option for remote working using VPN for security. Excitech also designed and implemented a company-wide filing system with appropriate permissions to facilitate data sharing, whilst at the same time protecting sensitive data, and a properly-sized tape backup solution.

Implementation of this new network took place in January 2011, and it took three days to successfully migrate all users in the company and transfer all the



data. The result is that sharing data between departments is simpler, with all data stored in a central place; backing up files is easy; and working remotely is now possible from offices and homes.

John Maloney, Marketing Manager for Pre-Construct expressed his satisfaction with the new IT infrastructure, "I need access to a lot of diverse information, which used to be a laborious task as I had to go through users' memory sticks and request information from people's personal space. The result of this improved infrastructure means a huge saving of effort on my part."

The entire network can be backed up in full overnight, which is a significant improvement over the month it would have taken previously.

With the server environment improving Pre-Construct's IT processes, the archaeology company now look to make their large archaeology reports available in a digital format, aiding publicity of their projects and business. Graham concluded "The whole company is enjoying the benefits that the new infrastructure has bought, including our Director who was delighted at now being able to access his data whilst at home! The upgrade was quick and went very smoothly, and we are very pleased with the results."

Design Technology Centre,  
8 Kinetic Crescent,  
Innova Business Park,  
Enfield, Middlesex, EN3 7XH.

T: 0845 370 1500  
F: 0845 370 1400  
E: info@excitech.co.uk  
W: www.excitech.co.uk

Offices also in:  
Bristol, Central London,  
Glasgow, Leatherhead,  
Manchester and Newcastle

**excitech**  
technology for design