



Case study

Energy

NHS Oldham

Background

A system which forces computers to switch themselves off at night is saving NHS Oldham thousands of pounds and hundreds of tonnes of carbon.

NHS Oldham in Greater Manchester is responsible for making decisions about where to allocate money, staff and resources to meet the borough's health needs. It commissions services from GPs, community nurses and therapists, dentists, pharmacists, hospitals, mental health organisations and a range of healthcare providers. Through their provider arm, Oldham Community Health Services, NHS Oldham also delivers services such as district nursing, school health and speech and language therapy.

Carbon and Financial Savings

NHS Oldham expects the PC shutdown system to reduce its annual energy costs by £41,000 and decrease its carbon footprint by around 800 tonnes per year.¹ The system has been installed on 600 desktops since November 2009.

¹ http://www.1e.com/download/whitepapers/Oldham_ICC_CaseStudy.pdf



Oldham Integrated Care Centre

How did NHS Oldham Improve Sustainability?

With the help of its IT services partner Computacenter, NHS Oldham has employed the latest technology to improve patient care while still reducing costs and ensuring energy efficiency.

Night Watchman from 1E enforces the safe shutdown of computers overnight. This means when the computers are not in use, they can be automatically shut down, suspended or put into a hibernated state.

"By making better use of IT, we can maximise the time clinicians spend with patients, which helps to improve patient outcomes and reduce waste, making the services operate more effectively."

Paul Lyons
Associate Director of Finance - Head of Information Management and Technology
NHS Oldham



The new system enhances the management and distribution of the operating system patches. IT solutions will also be improved and will bring wider benefits by enabling better work practice, such as contributing towards home working, which reduces NHS Oldham's carbon footprint on a daily basis.

NHS Oldham is also using a system centre configuration manager to help manage its IT estate better, which will maintain standard operating systems and deliver desktop software in a more cost-effective manner.

Lessons Learnt

Paul Lyons, Associate Director of Finance - Head of Information Management and Technology for NHS Oldham, has produced some tips for other NHS organisations planning similar work. They are listed here.

- Understand the environment in which you are deploying the new system – is it a new or a populated site?
- Consider machines that are set to boot from the network – often repaired machines.
- If you have access to a software assurance programme, consider incorporating App-V (or similar) to reduce software conflicts and packaging costs.
- Leave as long a gap as possible between discovery and system rollout.

- Spend as much time as necessary to get any build or applications packaging right first time.
- Having an IT partner contributed to the success of the project because they improved and managed the computer system more efficiently.

Further Information

Paul Lyons can be contacted at:

NHS Oldham
Ellen House
Waddington Street
Oldham.
OL9 6EE

Tel: 0161 622 6412
Email: plyons@nhs.net

NHS Sustainable Development Unit

Victoria House, Capital Park
Fulbourn, Cambridge CB21 5XB

Tel: 01223 597 792
Fax: 01223 597 712
Web: www.sdu.nhs.uk

The NHS Sustainable Development Unit develops organisations, people, tools, policy, and research to help the NHS in England fulfil its potential as a leading sustainable and low carbon organisation.