

Bracknell Forest



Overview

Bracknell Forest Borough Council is one of six unitary authorities in Berkshire with the main administrative office located in the town of Bracknell. The Council are currently using an ICL mainframe system for a number of its core service applications. Data centre printing is performed on two Xerox production printers located in the data centre in Bracknell. As part of phasing out the mainframe and legacy applications, new applications hosted on Unix and Intel systems are being implemented. These will not require such large-scale printing capability other than for year-end and bulk periodic requirements. Other arrangements are being made for these requirements. Printing capability for the mainframe applications must be continued until the transfer of applications is complete and the mainframe system is decommissioned.

The Problem

The Xerox production printers are now ageing and no longer appropriate for the current and projected loading. They need to be replaced with a smaller, more cost effective printer but capable of providing the required print service.

The current print jobs have all been developed using the Xerox LCDS system. This means that all the print resources, such as Forms and Fonts are only designed to print on a single type of production printer. The Council successfully adopted Highlight Colour printing early on, so any solution had to maintain the use of colour within the design of the documents.

The Solution

The solution provided was made up of three components. A Xerox 3535 full colour digital printer with Fiery Controller, Paris software from XLPrint and an ICL interface from FunAsset. The Paris Converter software was used initially to migrate all the required resources from the Xerox production printers. This meant that the resources only needed to be converted once into the Paris system keeping all their colour attributes and converting highlight to full colour. The FunAsset interface was used to allow the data from the ICL mainframe system to be routed to the TCP/IP network.

In addition to the routing, the FunAsset system provides a feature to extract information from the printing banner page.

The Xerox 3535 is networked and is used as the primary printer for daily print jobs. Volumes are estimated at approaching 100,000 per quarter although this will reduce.

Summary

Bracknell Forest now has the capability to print all of their key applications on the Xerox 3535 colour printer. As well as implementing new technology, the Council has reviewed overall printing needs and rationalised where feasible, including redirecting appropriate printing to remote printers in user areas. Nick Harding, Head of IT Services said,

"This project was a key component of the Councils progressive plan to phase out its mainframe whilst taking the opportunity to achieve immediate significant cost savings. XLPrint demonstrated a truly professional approach from the outset. Working alongside Council project staff, they were notably proactive and maintained a 'can-do' attitude throughout. They applied all the necessary resources and completed all the work stages ahead of schedule which resulted in a very successful project from all aspects."

Benefits

- The Paris system has moved printing capabilities forward.
- Industry standard software development tools and printing languages.
- Existing and new applications can be easily developed in the Paris Designer.
- Print jobs may be printed on the Xerox 3535. Bulk printing will be carried out via other arrangements
- All jobs are identified on the Paris Spooler, so special paper stock is easily controlled.
- Documents may be created and stored as PDF files.
- Documents may be created from any application system Bracknell Forest may decide to use in the future.

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