

Windham Brannon Companies Upgrades IT Infrastructure

Client:

Windham Brannon, a leading mid-size accounting firm recognized as one of the top 25 CPA firms in America multiple years running.* The firm prides itself on providing exceptional client service through proactive, objective planning by some of the most talented and experienced CPAs in the profession.

Business Driver:

Support the growth and productivity needs of the firm with a more responsive and stable IT infrastructure.

IT Challenge:

Establish best practice standards throughout the IT infrastructure, improve the security at the server and desktop, upgrade older servers and network software, strengthen remote access capabilities, and upgrade email software. The firm also wanted to lay the foundation for a document management system that would allow the firm to go paperless.

Results:

Windham Brannon made the decision to upgrade its core IT infrastructure to help drive the planned growth of the firm, improve the responsiveness of the network to the needs of users and provide improved remote access capabilities for the Audit team.

Over the span of 12 months, much of the IT infrastructure was revitalized. This included upgrades to the network, security infrastructure, operating systems, remote access and desktops.

Windham Brannon's IT Director Gail Chambers explains the process, "Several of our key servers were coming to the end of their life cycle, and components of our network software needed to be upgraded to the most recent versions. This would be the first phase of a major refresh of our IT infrastructure. Virtual Management Technologies (VMT) began by defining the changes needed to bring the network architecture up-to-date to current best practices. It was critical to our business that we complete all work on the IT infrastructure in pre-defined time slots of the calendar year. A significant portion of this implementation was completed prior to our tax 'busy season.'

"VMT completed the re-architecture on time and on budget. Our implementation was successful for the users and we achieved better than 99% uptime including maintenance outages."

VMT monitors the IT infrastructure 24/7 and proactively manages all aspects of its health. VMT also provides Windham Brannon a range of additional services to support the stability of the operating environment including Data and Application Replication Services – critical to the firm's Disaster Recovery/Business Continuation Plan – plus ongoing consulting services.

"VMT worked within our budget plans and maintains our IT infrastructure with an understanding of our day-to-day business needs," explains Ms. Chambers. "They are a valuable member of our team."

**Bowman's Accounting Report*

Key Accomplishments and Benefits:

- **Upgraded network architecture to best practice standards**
- **Uptime for new infrastructure exceeds 99%**
- **Improved firm-wide security, both internally and externally from the Internet using DMZ**
- **Improved flexibility in application deployment**
- **Created support infrastructure for new Document Management System**
- **User satisfaction improved with stability of network**
- **Improved data backup procedures**
- **Providing data recovery quickly and efficiently**



W I N D H A M B R A N N O N

**To find out how VMT can help
your organization manage its IT
infrastructure, contact us at:**



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