

CASE STUDY THE NOTTINGHAM



To plan for future growth, The Nottingham Building Society has modernised its IT infrastructure and consolidated its storage needs to significantly reduce power consumption, increase capacity and improve reliability with Nexsan's high density storage platform.

THE NOTTINGHAM BUILDING SOCIETY SUPPORTS AMBITIOUS GROWTH WITH DEPLOYMENT OF NEXSAN'S E-SERIES STORAGE ARRAY

CUSTOMER OVERVIEW

The Nottingham Building Society (The Nottingham) is an award-winning building society and estate agency, which operates online and via a network of 67 branches across 11 counties. The eighth largest building society in the UK by assets, with the fifth biggest branch presence, it offers a broad range of building society services such as mortgages and savings, as well as independent financial planning, whole-of-market mortgage advice and local estate agency services.

Founded in 1849 by local Quaker, Samuel Fox, the modern mutual is owned by its members with a long and proud history of offering financial support and advice to local communities.

While these values have stayed the same, the company has continued to grow, and in recent years it has evolved with ambitions to offer a true omni-channel experience to its customers.

CHALLENGE

With expansion plans firmly underway, The Nottingham embarked on an IT modernisation programme, with the goal of improving IT storage capacity and stability. With online savings accounts and a variety of other solutions in its portfolio relying on a secure storage infrastructure, the company needed to ensure its IT needs could be met both now and in the future. A major part of this was also the need to consolidate its IT; The Nottingham had numerous data centres and decided to consolidate this down to three, to help streamline operations and minimise maintenance.

Phillip Crocker, Distributed Technology Platform Manager at The Nottingham explained, "It was definitely time for us to modernise our IT environment. We wanted something that was new and more reliable as we approached full capacity of the current system. With growth an integral part of the company's roadmap, we needed to ensure our IT could support this."

SOLUTION

The previous IT environment was built using a mixture of VMware and IBM hardware. The Nottingham decided to replace the IBM element as it had reached the end of its lifespan and explored a number of alternative solutions. As part of this, the organisation considered options from Dell, Nexsan and HP. Crocker noted, "I was confident Nexsan would be a good fit for us and we also benchmarked with other providers so we could run a cost comparison, which affirmed our decision. We've been happy with the service, Nexsan has delivered what they promised, and it was a good return on investment."



NEXSAN

325 E. Hillcrest Drive, Suite 150
Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

866.4.NEXSAN
www.nexsan.com
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PHILIP CROCKER
DISTRIBUTOR TECHNOLOGY
PLATFORM MANAGER
THE NOTTINGHAM



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With the help of partner Softcat, The Nottingham replaced the old IBM solution with Nexsan's E18P storage solution which runs underneath its VMware platform in its headquarters. Nexsan's E-Series platform is designed to provide high-density, high performance and scalable storage, ideal for organisations that need to boost storage and ROI.

In addition, the company wanted an environment that would be easy to set up and maintain. Deployment and migration took just over 30 minutes

RESULTS

Since deployment one of the main benefits has been the additional capacity. The E18P storage solution is designed to start small and can easily scale up to 648TB as it is needed. Currently the company is enjoying 20 times more capacity than was previously available, allowing more space on each user drive with plenty of scalability to meet future demands. Crocker adds, "The additional capacity was a must. Nexsan has allowed us to meet our customer demands, giving us the ability to scale, and ensure our data requirements are met now and in the future."

Space was limited at its data centre so density was important. This extra capacity comes in half the rack space, helping to save on storage, power and cooling costs, fundamentally reducing the storage footprint.

Crocker concluded, "The system delivered the capacity, performance and stability that we need to allow us to modernise our IT infrastructure. This was essential for us to continue to deliver, innovate and grow our membership, offering customers a leading service that is supported by a reliable and robust IT."

ABOUT NEXSAN

Nexsan® is a global enterprise storage leader, enabling customers to securely store, protect and manage critical business data. Established in 1999, Nexsan has built a strong reputation for delivering highly reliable and cost-effective storage while remaining agile to deliver purpose built storage. Its unique and patented technology addresses evolving, complex enterprise requirements with a comprehensive portfolio of unified storage, block storage, and secure archiving. Nexsan is transforming the storage industry by turning data into a business advantage with unmatched security and compliance standards. Ideal for a variety of use cases including Government, Healthcare, Education, Life Sciences, and Media & Entertainment. Nexsan is part of the StorCentric family of brands along with Drobo – and operates as a separate division to securely protect business information.