



National Legal Advice Centres Adopt Azure Information Protection

For the Law Centres Network, it is an important aspect of their work with vulnerable people to make sure the data they hold is secure and managed within strict guidelines. It would not be unusual for a case managed by one of the law centres to involve highly sensitive personal information on a client that needs to be shared securely within the organisation or with other relevant external agencies.

“We need to be sure that data we share on our clients is secure and that only the relevant people involved in the case can have access. Office 365 allows us to manage our documents securely and reduce the worry of potentially exposing our clients to more harm”

- Helen Gazzi, Project Lead

The Law Centres Network is a UK based national non-for-profit organisation that defend the legal rights of people in our communities who cannot afford a lawyer. They use specialist knowledge to help people save their homes, keep their jobs and protect their families.

Law Centres offer legal advice, casework and representation to individuals and groups. Spotting local trends and issues in the course of their work, they highlight them to bring about necessary policy changes and to prevent future problems.

All Law Centres are independent and operate on a not-for-profit basis. They are also accountable to their communities, with local people acting on their management committees. The Law Centres Network is the national governing body overseeing the work of the centres.

During 2017/18 the Law Centres Network embarked on a national IT project to provide modern devices and Office 365 to all users. The project involves adopting a common email and communications platform using Exchange Online and a customised Intranet portal hosted on SharePoint. This project has already enabled many of the law centres to remove old on premises server equipment and make use of new technology. As standard all users are licensed with Office 365 Enterprise E3 and the Enterprise, Mobility + Security Suite. Devices are managed centrally using Intune and technical support for the cloud is provided by Microsoft Gold Partner, AspiraCloud Limited based in Coventry.

Why Office 365 and AIP

The Law Centres Network are supported in this IT project by a number of partners. AspiraCloud were introduced to LCN by Microsoft after a series of successful engagements with Law Firms in the UK.

The Law Centres Network decided to adopt Office365 and Windows 10 as the platform for delivering safe and secure IT that already had a proven record of meeting guidelines set by the Law Society and Solicitors' Regulation Authority. Office 365 from Microsoft ticked all the boxes in terms of function and Regulation.

As part of a phased approach over the next two years as funds allow, the centres are benefiting from new working practices and high-quality IT services allowing Anytime, Anywhere working. They are using email, SharePoint and One Drive for business to share documents, collaborate instantaneously using Skype for Business Online for instant message chats and video calls.

"With Office 365 and AIP we know we can communicate securely and maintain control of our documents. We know our customer data is safe. "

- Helen Gazzi, Project Lead

How AspiraCloud Helped

In order to implement AIP, the Law Centres needed to decide how best to classify documents and emails so that the system was simple to use and required very little training. It was important with the incoming GDPR requirements to make sure that the solution included the ability to mark items containing sensitive or personal information and apply the right set of permissions to manage that content.

AspiraCloud already had some understanding of the centre's work from the initial migration of mail and documentation from on premises servers to the cloud. Within a few short workshop sessions, the centres were able to decide a common labelling and rights managements process that would work for all users.

With the added benefit of all devices being managed via Intune on Azure, the necessary software was distributed to over 100 devices in multiple locations within less that a couple of hours.

Conclusion

With Azure Information Protection in place the centres can be sure that documents and emails relating to their clients and the most vulnerable in society and managed properly within the organisation and securely when shared externally. With this solution in place everyone can rest easily knowing clients are being helped and the data is safe.

About AspiraCloud

AspiraCloud is Microsoft Gold Cloud Platform and Productivity Partner based in UK.

We specialise in helping organisations and businesses, who have extra levels of regulation or compliance, in the following sectors: Education, Not for Profit, Pharmaceutical, Professional Services and Management. Our goal is to assist customers whether they are taking their first steps to adopt the cloud, or working with you to strategically drive, support and embed Office 365 and Azure across all aspects of your business

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