

PortWise Enables Local Authority to Meet eGovernment Targets for Service Delivery and to Securely Mobilise its Workforce

Submitted by: Devonshire Marketing Consultants Limited

Tuesday, 7 June 2005

East Staffordshire Borough Council implements PortWise's Remote Application Access Platform for total security and flexibility over its remote access capabilities

PortWise today announced that East Staffordshire Borough Council has implemented its secure application access platform and as a result has been able to comply with the Government's Initiative for modernising service delivery*, provide remote, secure application access to its employees and suppliers and securely mobilise its workforce.

The Council, with a jurisdiction of over 110,000 and a workforce of 600 distributed amongst 13 offices, implemented the solution after identifying PortWise as the only vendor that could provide a comprehensive and cost effective solution that would enable a diverse user base completely secure, remote access to internal applications, and that could integrate fully with its existing infrastructure.

"PortWise has enabled us to make the seemingly unachievable achievable: to build a system that allows us to comply with Government legislation and improve service delivery and Quality of Service delivery to our many end users immediately, while at the same time being flexible enough to help us meet the access and compliance challenges of tomorrow," said Margaret Esler, Computer Services Manager, East Staffordshire Borough Council.

As a result of the implementation, East Staffordshire can now provide completely secure access to its workforce and suppliers regardless of time, location or device. PortWise's policy based access functionality enables the organisation to dynamically manage all of the parties that are gaining access to its systems at any time, and to be able to change access rights in real time. It has also gained great benefit from PortWise's audit functionality, which enables the Council to centrally capture and record all remote access activity: increasingly important as local authorities are called upon to demonstrate compliance to government regulations.

By enabling the council to fully support flexible working, PortWise is helping the Council to rationalise its resources, "As flexible working is increasingly adopted amongst the workforce, we will be able to provide the same high level of service wherever the citizen needs it, at sites that the council need to deliver it . This will enable us to save money in terms of office space with all of its associated costs," said Esler. In terms of containing expenditure as the remote workforce increases, PortWise's scalable, modular architecture means that multiple access points can be implemented at no extra cost providing scalable access to Mainframe, Client/Server, Web, Terminal Server and File Server applications from any device.

East Staffordshire Borough Council selected PortWise following a thorough, six-month evaluation of all of the available products in the remote access marketplace, including the leading SSL VPN brands. "It was clear from the outset that PortWise was unlike all of the other products that we had evaluated," said Esler. "When PortWise talked about secure access it went beyond mere SSL VPN functionality: they offered a comprehensive application access platform of which SSL VPN formed an integral part."

The PortWise solution is unique in its application-centric approach to secure access. Rather than taking the traditional approach of point security product deployment, the PortWise software platform offers a comprehensive, integrated suite addressing all aspects of secure application access, including user device assessment, strong user authentication, policy-based user authorisation, secure clientless access, user activity reporting for auditing and compliance, and session clean-up. All these security services work seamlessly together with SSL VPN based access.

***About Implementing Electronic Government (IEG)**

Electronic Government is the UK Government's description of modernising the public services to enable citizens and customers to conduct their relationships with public agencies by any means that they find convenient. It includes providing services via the Internet, but also through Interactive Digital Television and via the telephone. It also includes the ability to communicate fully with local authorities by e-mail. The Government has set a target for all councils to be able to provide all appropriate services electronically by 2005.

About PortWise

PortWise provides completely secure access to critical information and applications for the mobile workforce and distributed partner networks, from any device in any location. Its Application-Oriented Access solution is the industry's first fully integrated single platform to enable the secure mobilisation of the workforce while driving efficiencies and protecting the integrity of the organisation. Unlike point solutions and simple SSL VPN, PortWise provides deep integration with other security services within the enterprise. PortWise was recently cited in Gartner Group's SSL VPN Magic Quadrant as a technology visionary. PortWise are an international software company with offices in the United Kingdom, Germany, Sweden, United States, India, Singapore and partners across Europe, Asia and North America. Further details can be found at www.portwise.com.

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