

Lifeline charity signs deal for Alchemy's hosted virtual desktop solution with IGEL thin clients

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Solving charity and small business computing needs for just £9.99 a month (+vat)

Reading, UK – May 5th, 2009 – The Lifeline Project, a substance abuse charity, has signed a virtual hosted desktop deal with Alchemy Systems to manage its computing needs at a cost of just £9.99 per person, per month (+vat), including an IGEL thin client. Alchemy's Virtual Open Desktop service delivers a complete computing solution to the 60-person charity, based in London's Hackney. With the Virtual Open Desktop service, each customer receives an IGEL thin client which can be plugged in and up and running in minutes. The service uses Open Source software including Open Office, a Zimbra email client and the FireFox web browser to allow users to work without the cost of expensive software licenses. Alchemy Systems has also customised the desktops for the Lifeline Project staff, so that they can still access their specialised applications such as patient care management tools.

The energy efficient, IGEL Linux thin clients mean that the charity's hardware is simple, secure and easy to support remotely. The IGEL units are managed remotely by the Alchemy support team using the IGEL Universal Management Suite software, which comes free with every IGEL thin client. The thin clients are also secure as they are virus free and all information is stored securely on the server, meaning if the thin clients are stolen or damaged no information is lost.

As part of the service, Alchemy hosts the charity's information at its secure data centre and applications are accessed by the charity via the Internet using a software as a service model (SaaS) over a secure SSH connection, using a free NX client. This technology speeds data transfer ensuring that users receive a PC-like experience, despite applications and information being hosted remotely.

"The Virtual Open Desktop solution delivers exactly what the charity needs in terms of IT support without the hassles of having to worry about security, upgrades and maintenance," said Jackie Kennedy, of the Lifeline Project.

Nathan Mills, managing director of Alchemy Systems, added: "In today's difficult economic climate, small and medium-sized business owners need to be able to concentrate on their business rather than worry about their IT infrastructure. Virtual Open Desktop with IGEL solves this problem at very low cost. We chose to work with IGEL because we believe their desktops are simply the best designed, most efficient and most manageable on the market."

Simon Richards, general manager of IGEL in the UK, added: "Alchemy's Virtual Open Desktop is one of the most innovative solutions we have seen for small and medium sized organisations. Combined with an IGEL Universal Desktop, customers can enjoy great performance, security and hassle free computing."

The choice of IGEL by Lifeline further underlines the company's rapidly growing success in the charitable sector with customers such as Mencap, the Salvation Army and Elizabeth Finn existing IGEL users.

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About IGEL Technology

IGEL Technology is the world's third largest client vendor by revenue and is market leader in its home country of Germany (2008 IDC). The company produces the industry's widest range of thin clients, based on Linux and Microsoft Windows, giving customers access to almost any form of server-based infrastructure and application including virtual PCs from VMware®, Citrix® Xen or Microsoft®, terminal services, legacy applications via Ericom® PowerTerm® terminal emulation, web, Java, SAP and VoIP. Form factors include traditional desktops, integrated LCD units, quad screens and PC to thin client conversion cards. All IGEL thin clients come with the bundled, easy to use, IGEL Universal Management Suite, giving you maximum remote control with the minimum cost and hassle. All devices support smart cards for maximum security.

About Alchemy Systems

With offices in Egham, Greater Manchester, Exeter, Burton on Trent and Malaysia - Alchemy Systems Group supplies, installs and supports business systems, from PCs and servers to sophisticated networks for organisations across the UK and Far East.

For further information visit: www.alchemyonline.net

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