We enabled Marie Curie to obtain the best value for money from it's technology investment

Marie Curie Cancer Care appointed us to complete a Business Forum and Technical Design for a proposed Windows 2000 infrastructure project. We established the core business goals and processes within Marie Curie Cancer Care. This was then translated into a detailed Windows 2000 design.

Marie Curie Cancer Care engaged us to design and build the solution utilising Microsoft Windows SharePoint Services 3.0, Microsoft SQL Server 2005 and Microsoft SQL Reporting Services. The final solution sits within their existing infrastructure, whilst application support, administration of the SharePoint system and on-going enhancements are handled by us using secure remote access.

The Client

Marie Curie Cancer Care is unrivalled. It is the only UK cancer charity that combines cancer care through home nursing and hospices with world-class cancer research.

They provides practical nursing care to around half of all cancer patients who die at home and specialist care at its 10 hospices across the UK. The charity also provides education and training for doctors, nurses and other healthcare professionals. Scientists at the world-renowned Marie Curie Research Institute are at the forefront of research into the causes and treatment of cancer.

The care and support given to people with cancer at home by Marie Curie Cancer Care nurses and through the Marie Curie hospices is provided free of charge to patients and their families.

The Challenge

Marie Curie Cancer Care had an infrastructure that had evolved over a period of time. Although the growth was based on the use of best practices and best of breed solutions within the various elements of the business, this in itself led to a fragmented and non-cohesive infrastructure. As a charity, Marie Curie Cancer Care needs to ensure absolute best value is obtained from all investment, especially IT. The design of the new system had to meet changing operational practices, new organisational objectives and deliver value for money for Marie Curie.

The key objectives that they identified were as follows:

> Improved internal & external communication

Client >
Marie Curie Cancer Care

Sector >
Care Providers

Project >
Aligning business with technology

"Advanced has enabled Marie Curie to obtain the best value for money from its technology investment."

Peter Crutchfield >
IT Director >
Marie Curie Cancer Care

CASE STUDY

Marie Curie Cancer Care Case Study

> Centralised contact details of supporters and colleagues

> Improved organisational & industry information sharing

> Remote access for nurses, managers and community fundraisers

> Consistent working practices across all 10 hospices

Ultimately, the key challenge facing Marie Curie Cancer Care was to turn a set of technologies into solutions that delivered value to the charity. Value that could be measured by improved patient care, increased income and/or reduced costs.

The Solution

We initiated a series of Business and Technical Forums and worked closely with Marie Curie Cancer Care to identify both the business and technical goals of the organisation. The Business Forum involved the key stakeholders in the business process and produced a detailed list of requirements from the new system as well as detailed communication flow across the various disparate elements of their organisation.

The key technical elements of the identified solution were:

> Windows XP

> Active Directory

> Engage 2000

> Outlook Web Access

> Standardised desktops

> Application packaging with centralised IT administration

This business information was fed into the Technical Design Team who translated it into an initial design. This design was then expanded and reviewed through a Technical Forum and a final design agreed upon. Once the design was agreed, a detailed Implementation Plan was developed.

The Benefits

Marie Curie Cancer Care experienced 3 main benefits from the project:

> A detailed document outlining the key business objectives of the organisation that also illustrated which areas could be directly addressed by the infrastructure design.

> A technical design based on the identified requirements of the business.

> A detailed implementation plan showing the total cost and duration of the project.

Peter Crutchfield, IT Director, Marie Curie Cancer Care says, *"Advanced has enabled us to obtain the best value for money from its technology investment. As a charity it is critical that every '£' spent on IT offers more than a '£' back in benefit. The Advanced approach, that begins with aligning IT to business goals, has created the strategy and infrastructure to allow us to achieve this."*

More information

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