

U.K. Government Organization Migrates to Office 365

Integrates Active Directory environments in a seamless migration project



 **180K** users gradually needed to be moved to the cloud

Migrated from:

Microsoft Exchange

Migrated to:

Microsoft Office 365

Country:

United Kingdom

Industry:

Government

CUSTOMER PROFILE

The client, a large government organization in the UK, is involved in the most complex information infrastructure rollout ever seen in the region. Their mission is to replace hundreds of older and outdated computer systems with one modern system.

Approximately 3,000 IT professionals across several large companies comprise the project team that is tasked with executing the rollout—an ongoing program that's benefiting about 300,000 users across 2,000 locations.

THE SITUATION

A global systems integrator was looking to partner with a firm who could help them sort out the directory synchronization of a large U.K. government organization who would be migrating 180,000 users from various versions of Microsoft Exchange on-premises to Office 365.

SOLUTION

The systems integrator chose Binary Tree Directory Sync Pro by Quest.

BENEFITS

- An efficient synchronization solution
- Customization of Binary Tree Directory Sync Pro
- Skilled technical team

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The client, a large government organization in the United Kingdom, needed help to gradually move 180,000 users to the cloud, specifically to Microsoft Office 365. At the time, they had many versions of Microsoft Exchange across their organization. They were also concerned about unauthorized access to data. To satisfy their security concerns, Microsoft acquired a new level of security accreditation from a technical authority in the UK. They also chose a global systems integrator as their partner for implementation.

A large government organization in the UK undertook a broad, national effort to modernize their IT infrastructure to improve communication, promote more efficient ways of working, and provide higher value. This initiative included a move to the Microsoft Office 365 cloud which required their multiple on-premises Active Directory environments to be integrated prior. The Binary Tree Directory Sync Pro software was chosen for this task and enabled the project team to quickly set up the needed integration.

250,000 OBJECTS AND PRECIOUS LITTLE TIME

The client's Active Directory environment consisted of multiple forests that contained 250,000 objects. The challenge in a situation like this is that before migrating, you have to make sure that people's identities are synced on-premises. Essentially, it's a process of getting your directories in order first. To accomplish this task, the systems integrator looked at a number of options. But because the client wanted to start moving users quickly, any proprietary scripting and subsequent maintenance would be too cumbersome and time consuming—and thus not an option.

Binary Tree Directory Sync Pro is designed for exactly this situation. As its name implies, the software creates directory awareness between two disparate systems and synchronizes all mail-enabled objects—including users, AD passwords, SID history, contacts, distribution lists, shared mailboxes, and resources. Just what the client needed.

ABOVE AND BEYOND

How do you balance the need to seamlessly exchange information with the need to keep that information secure? Security is paramount in large government organizations. One of the major challenges in migrating this client was to provide a secure infrastructure that let information flow effectively across all levels of security clearance. This meant ensuring that information could be shared across Restricted and Secret domains, as well as making sure that critical security information could be exchanged efficiently within the organization.

Because directory synchronization is a key component of messaging interoperability, Binary Tree Directory Sync Pro already had the ability to cover virtually any directory synchronization scenario. In this case, Binary Tree by Quest had to customize its solution to meet the stringent security requirements of the client's environment related to firewall and anti-virus issues, without having the client change a thing. This effort demonstrated Binary Tree's willingness to go above and beyond to meet the requirements of this project.



AN ORGANIZATION WITHIN AN ORGANIZATION

One can never underestimate the complexity of a large national project. The prime contractor on this program is a global systems integrator, with three other member companies bringing their own areas of expertise to this massive program.

Binary Tree was contracted by an enterprise consulting organization within the systems integrator. So it was important to customize Binary Tree Directory Sync Pro to accommodate the security requirements of the systems integrator, and thus the client.

MIGRATION PROGRESS AFTER THE DIRECTORY SYNCHRONIZATION

The program has successfully migrated users from 57 remote sites in 6 regions.

Regional headquarters and other remote sites previously running on a legacy network were upgraded.

The project team resized the data to reduce the standard migration timelines by half.

The project covered the rollout to 10 sites, a migration of thousands of users.

After this initial large migration project, a percentage of existing mailboxes will remain on-premises. The global systems integrator has partnered with Binary Tree again and will use Binary Tree Migrator Pro by Quest for Exchange and Binary Tree Migrator Pro by Quest for Active Directory to move those mailboxes and Active Directory identities from their existing Microsoft Exchange platforms and forests to the most current version of Microsoft Exchange on-premises.



ABOUT QUEST

Quest creates software solutions that make the benefits of new technology real in an increasingly complex IT landscape. From database and systems management, to Active Directory and Office 365 management, and cyber security resilience, Quest helps customers solve their next IT challenge now. Quest Software. Where next meets now.

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