Binary Tree and Nero Blanco Guide the CfBT Education Development Trust to the Microsoft Office 365 Cloud

"The reasons we chose Binary Tree and Nero Blanco, the company's partner in the U.K., were obvious: a high level of professionalism and technical expertise; the ability to migrate over a single weekend; pre-migration support excellence; value; and no loss of user productivity!"

— Alan Parker, IT Governance Manager, CfBT

Project Background

As a global consultancy and provider of best practices in education, CfBT wanted to modernize its email platform by migrating from Lotus Notes to Microsoft Office 365. Notes/Domino was increasingly expensive to maintain in terms of people and the platform was no longer going to be supported. At the same time, the ogranization wanted to be prudent about its choice of software, so approached Microsoft for some guidance. With 15 people in their IT department, CfBT wanted to make sure that everyone was involved, before, during and after the migration.

The Solution from Nero Blanco and Binary Tree

Another firm suggested that CfBT perform a phased or multi-part migration; however that was not attractive for a number of factors, including the high cost. According to Parker, "We approached our Board with the Binary Tree/Nero Blanco solution, which we fondly called 'the big bang' because the entire migration was to occur at once, and they backed our choice completely."

Case Study Highlights

Migrated from: IBM/Lotus Notes
Migrated to: Microsoft Office 365
Country: United Kingdom
Industry: Education

Organization Profile

Established in 1968 as the Centre for British Teachers, CfBT Education Development Trust is a UK-based nonprofit organization that works with governments, schools and other partners, with a mission of providing excellent education for all. CfBT has worked in more than 80 countries around the world on projects that range from reforming national level education to improving the performance of an individual school. CfBT employs more than 3,300 staff worldwide.

Solution Summary

Binary Tree Partner, Nero Blanco, migrated over 500 users (a majority of CfBT's UK staff) from Notes to Microsoft Office 365 over a single weekend. Binary Tree's Notes Migrator CMT was the product of choice for migrating from Notes to Office 365, offering unmatched data fidelity, migration management and migration throughput. Directory Sync Pro was used to synchronize all mail-enables objects, including users, contacts, groups, databases, shared mailboxes, and other resources.

Partnerships

- Extremely cost-effective solution
- Entire migration took one weekend
- Remote migration deployment on Microsoft Azure
- Partner Nero Blanco supported the client throughout the one-month preparation, as well as during the migration

CfBT couldn't be happier. "Nothing was too much trouble for Nero Blanco. They were patient and answered all of our questions, as well as guided us through a thorough pre-migration methodology. I would say that they were outstanding on the change management side, advising us on user preparedness to ensure no loss of productivity. The feedback from our management team was that they had not witnessed such a smooth transition on an IT project ever!"

"We approached our Board with the Binary Tree/Nero Blanco solution, which we fondly called 'the big bang' because the entire migration was to occur at once, and they backed our choice completely."

Alan Parker,
IT Governance Manager, CfBT

Preparing for the Migration

90% of the work was accomplished up front and involved making sure all Directory Synchronization issues were resolved beforehand. That way, when Nero Blanco performed the actual migration, there was a high level of confidence it would be successful. On the Domino side, that meant ensuring connectivity to all of the Lotus Notes servers and making sure that any groups, Nero Blanco and the IT team at CfBT walked through as many scenarios as possible to identify any obstacles. The entire preparation stage took about a month.

Overcoming Project Complexities

One of the complexities involved how groups and shared mailboxes were going to be used. There were some users who wanted their passwords synchronized from the network automatically, while others didn't use the network at all and therefore only needed Office 365 accounts. To resolve this, a solution was created manually in the cloud, so both situations could be addressed. In addition, with Domino, many users had one email address in Active Directory and another email address and/or user principal name elsewhere. Nero Blanco made sure that all email addresses were aligned and groups created properly during the preparation stage.

The Importance of User Communications

To ensure a smooth transition, CfBT spent a lot of time with communications. They held sessions around the businesses, as well as face-to-face meetings with managers, as well as with the Board. There were also frequent email communications, so users could be aware of the countdown/run-up, online training, and opportunity to have any questions answered before and after the migration. A great deal of time and effort was spent considering the impact to users; in fact, it was so important that is was one person's dedicated role.

About Nero Blanco

Nero Blanco's primary business involves being highly skilled at all Binary Tree products and developing a close relationship with the Binary Tree technical and support teams. Since its inception in 2013, Nero Blanco has worked with over twenty Binary Tree clients that span project-specific clients through large multinational enterprises, and was awarded the Binary Tree 'Most Technical Partner' of the year 2014.

Achieving Migration Success

Nero Blanco opted to use a staging server in the Microsoft Azure cloud so they could replicate the Notes assets in Azure and then migrate from there for faster throughput. They migrated 30 days worth of data/email, apart from some VIPs who had all of their mail migrated. The migration went very smoothly and was sited as one of the most successful IT projects ever at CfBT. From Binary Tree's perspective, the success of the project includes the fact that Nero Blanco is proven and excellent to work with long term.

Contact Us

Worldwide: +1 (212) 244-3635
Australia: +61 2 9037 0266
France: +33 977 197 087
Japan: +81 3 4578 1809
Spain: + 34 918 97 87 23
UK: +44 20 3514 2599
US: (800) 706-2913
sales@binarytree.com

About Binary Tree

Binary Tree provides software and SaaS solutions designed to enable enterprises everywhere to transform and manage change with the Microsoft cloud. Through its business-first approach, Binary Tree has helped over 50% of the Fortune 500 and 10,000 global organizations to plan, modernize, and manage transformations that involve Microsoft 365, Office 365, Azure, business applications and merging organizations. The company is a Microsoft Gold Partner and a globally preferred vendor, with headquarters outside New York City and global offices in France, Germany, Singapore, Sweden and the U.K.

For More information visit www.binarytree.com.