

Microsoft Exchange 2010/2013

Whether deploying or developing 2010, or moving to 2013, BDS Solutions deliver manageable and secure Exchange platforms

BDS Solutions deployed its first Exchange platform over 15 years ago and the technology has been at the centre of our business ever since. Having worked with all versions of Exchange since 5.5, we recognise Exchange 2010/2013 as significant steps forward in terms of security, scalability and accessibility.

Here are some of the advancements that make compelling reasons for considering adoption of Exchange 2010/13:

Database Availability Groups (DAGs)

- provide perpetual replication of mailbox databases without the need for clustering. These database copies will be activated by Exchange should the server hosting the live copy become unavailable. This intelligent data replication provides extremely high levels of availability for mission critical installations.

Client Access Server (CAS) arrays - in addition to DAGs, Exchange introduces CAS arrays. With all client communication now going via CAS servers, an array provides further resilience by ensuring that failure of one CAS server within a domain does not disrupt client connectivity.

Mobility - security for iPads, iPhones and other mobile devices can be controlled through policies in Exchange and ActiveSync. This ensures that data is encrypted, devices implement appropriate access controls and that in the event of loss, remote reset can be invoked.

Hardware efficiencies - Exchange 2010, and subsequently in 2013, evolves many of the architectural advancements introduced in 2007. Efficient hardware utilisation allows multiple roles to be hosted on a single server and large mailbox support to be improved.

Archiving - in-built archiving allows secondary mailboxes to be created enabling greater retention to be achieved without the need for 3rd party archiving solutions. Exchange also better supports compliance requirements by providing recoverable deletions and improved legal search capabilities.

Rich User Experience - improvements in Outlook Web Access now provide a similar experience to the desktop version and it is now supported across many popular browsers. Within Outlook, enhanced functionality allows users to request group membership, customise voicemail menus and configure advanced mailbox management rules.



"BDS worked closely with us to design the Exchange 2010 platform for our 6,000 users. After successful migration to 2010, they have continued to support us as our messaging requirements have evolved."

Service Continuity Team Manager

**Central Manchester University
Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**

For more information please contact BDS Solutions
on **01884 33440** or visit **bds-solutions.co.uk**

BDS Solutions is a technology partner for NHS organisations throughout the country. BDS deliver, develop and support Microsoft, VMware, Citrix and Dell products together with associated 3rd party and in-house developed security and management software. BDS Solutions is ISO9001:2008 accredited, IGSoc compliant and provides dedicated service desk support for NHS organisations via N3.

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Exchange 2010 for East Lancashire Primary Care Community

The combined electronic messaging and collaboration requirements of East Lancashire Primary Care Community was based on a Microsoft Exchange 2003 Active / Passive Cluster providing Outlook Web Access, MAPI and Mobile services. Following the decision to upgrade, the East Lancashire Primary Care Informatics Unit (PCIU) engaged BDS to design and implement Exchange 2010.

The customer wished to utilise virtualised hardware to host the upgraded Operating Systems and Exchange services. BDS worked with the PCIU to analyse storage requirements for the Exchange 2010 databases and to assure the hardware performance of the VMware ESX servers that would host all the Exchange services.

The project provided the opportunity to deliver a cross-site disaster recovery capability between the primary production Active Directory site and a secondary failover site. Taking advantage of the new facilities in Exchange 2010, a network load-balanced Client Access Server array and a Database Availability Group was configured to provide perpetual replication of databases to the secondary site. The combination of these configuration options provided optimum client connectivity, high availability and resilience.

In addition to the Mailbox and CAS roles, BDS also enhanced security at the network perimeter. An upgraded Exchange 2010 Edge Server with its enhanced spam filtering was deployed along with Forefront Gateway server to provide improved security over remote clients.

BDS consultants provided guidance over the migration to the new Exchange 2010 platform providing a phased approach to permit co-existence to ensure that production capability was not affected during the deployment. The project successfully delivered improved performance, resilience, security and usability for the community which is now run by the Midlands & Lancashire CSU.

Exchange 2013 for Norfolk Health and Care Trust

The Trust embarked on a project to establish a new server and desktop infrastructure which included a new Microsoft Exchange 2013 organisation. The Trust had 5,000 mailboxes in Exchange 2003. As part of the migration, user accounts were to be migrated cross-forest to a new 2012 Active Directory environment.

To support the migration of Exchange mailboxes whilst the client estate includes Outlook 2003, a temporary Exchange 2010 server was deployed in the new 2012 target domain. This server was used to host Exchange mailboxes until all clients were upgraded to Outlook 2007 or later. This interim 2010 platform also allowed BDS to establish the most cost-effective migration process using Microsoft native tools. This avoided the need to employ expensive specialist migration software.

BDS Solutions specified and built a resilient Exchange 2013 solution incorporating a two-node Database Availability Group (DAG). Mailbox resources were initially migrated cross-forest to the temporary Exchange 2010 server and then transitioned to Exchange 2013. The migration included 3,500 user accounts, mailboxes, public folders and groups from the legacy Active Directory and Exchange 2003 platform.

The final user cutover to the new service was undertaken out of core hours at the weekend by BDS Solutions who dealt with all profile reconfiguration as well as the user and data migration. The service is now supported under a BDS Flexi-Care contract that provides the Trust with access to all BDS' Microsoft, VMware and Citrix specialists.

“Excellent, just excellent. The BDS consultants were like part of the team. The transition from the legacy services to the new Active Directory 2012 and Exchange 2013 platform was delivered seamlessly by BDS.”

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