

Case Study Stockbroker

Disaster Recovery



SENTRONEX

The Client

The Client is a 30 man brokerage firm with a Corporate Finance arm located in the City of London and is regulated by the Financial Services Authority, and now with a small overseas Sales office. The Client acquired the services of Sentronex to provide stability to their current I.T infrastructure, which would ensure the smooth running of their I.T environment, as well as offering increased performance and security.

"With the recent problems that have arisen in London in the past few months, from the freak snow storm to the G20 protests, has made us realise that DR is a necessary part for the functioning of any business and we're glad to have Sentronex by our side." COO

The Challenge

Being an FSA regulated firm, the Client was required to have an 'appropriate' Disaster Recovery solution. Having had no prior experience in this field, Sentronex were brought in to provide guidance on the entire process, incorporating the following, to form a cost effective yet reliable solution:

- Alternative office seating
- Remote access
- Email/File Data Replication

The Solution

Sentronex began with an in-depth analysis of the business, including interviewing all key staff. A comprehensive business continuity plan was formed, taking into account which personnel required access to which data, how they would need it and when.

Sentronex implemented a resilient and managed DR Solution.

By setting up three key servers in DR, it allowed the client to work from home, replicate both email and file data on a real time basis

and improve resilience on their production environment.

A DR exchange server was introduced to allow for real time email replication using some of the latest industry technology (DoubleTake software).

This allowed for instant access to email in the event of an invocation.

By making enhancements to the Client's Windows Active Directory, Sentronex were able to take advantage of using Microsoft DFS real time replication at a minimal cost for file data.

Finally, by putting into operation a terminal server at the Client DR site with secure authentication using RSA, they were able to use remote access to gain access to their necessary data and applications in the case of disruption. This solution also proved beneficial in the production environment, by offering flexible working to employees with a long commute, families or the disabled, thus helping to reduce costs on multiple terminal servers.

In preparation for a disaster rendering the main office and systems of the client inoperative, Sentronex also provided Disaster Recovery office space and an alternative dealing room to allow operations to be resumed as normal within one hour.

"Sentronex spent a lot of time examining our business model and the day to day operations of the company, resulting in BCP. This, for us, eliminated the need for in-house Business Continuity consultants, resulting in considerable cost savings." COO

The Result

The Client has now got a DR set up which fully complies with FSA regulations. The DR solution also significantly benefitted the production environment. Successful tests have shown that the solution is fully operational when required and the client is pleased with the result.