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CASE STUDY
IG GROUP



CASE STUDY IG GROUP

SIGNIFICANT GROWTH DRIVES NEED FOR NEXT-GENERATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Huge success and rapid growth are nice problems for a business to have. However such success demands an IT infrastructure that can keep pace with expected growth. IG Group selected Block to help them deliver a solution that would keep them ahead.

THE CHALLENGE

World-leading financial derivatives trading business, IG Group with a market capitalisation of over £1.7bn, are doing a lot of things right.

As a FTSE250 company, IG Group understands the value that an optimised infrastructure adds to maintaining their market leading position. They are also aware of the risks to their reputation if their technology does not continue to be reliable and effective.

It is critical to the achievement of the IG Group business strategy. It makes the delivery of outstanding current services possible and enables development of the new, differentiating applications that will attract an even bigger market share.

Based on ambitious plans and projected future growth, IG Group could see that the capacity of its IT infrastructure needed to keep growing. As a company that has IT at its core, decisive action was required to stay ahead of the curve.



“Our IT strategy is centred around being able to meet the performance and bandwidth requirements of our trading application environment and delivering this project will support the business in continuing its growth and leading position for financial derivatives trading”

Mike Clark
Group Head of Infrastructure,
IG Group

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THE SOLUTION

IG Group needed a reliable partner to help them design and implement a next-generation data centre infrastructure, specifically for the network and computing elements.

"Block were selected as our preferred partner based on their experience of delivering infrastructure solutions, together with the technical expertise and willingness of their people to go the extra mile during the project," said Justin Tilley, Network Services Manager, IG Group "Of particular value to us was that they invested the time to understand our current requirements and articulate how all the new technology would integrate with our infrastructure."

Once engaged, Block delivered a multi-million pound solution incorporating Cisco Nexus switching and Unified Computing System (UCS) Blade Server technology across IG Group's three key Data Centres in London. Block also ensured integration with existing VMware virtualisation and NetApp storage components, working with multiple teams.

THE BENEFITS

"Our IT strategy demands that we meet the performance and bandwidth requirements of our trading applications environment. Getting this project right supports our continuing success in financial derivatives trading," said Mike Clark. "The service we provide is a very sensitive one and people expect absolute reliability. Our new infrastructure created with Block's help, gives us the opportunity to extend our reputation for great service and high standards."

The new IG Group infrastructure is a robust high performance solution. It provides low latency application performance and increased speed to market for new applications across IG Group's three key sites. This allows IG Group to meet their core business objectives to maximise application availability, centrally manage the application environment and reduce the server footprint.

"Block were selected as our preferred partner based on the experience of delivering infrastructure solutions, together with the technical expertise they demonstrated a willingness to go the extra mile during the evaluation phase."

Justin Tilley,
Network Services Manager,
IG Group

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ABOUT BLOCK

Block is a technology consultancy that specialises in delivering infrastructure and communications solutions. Our solutions deliver outstanding performance for organisations that need robust systems to stay ahead of the competition.

See www.block-solutions.net for more information.