



# Case Study



## Primary Care Trust install award-winning virtualised storage solution

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**Sam Cardus, IT Network Manager Blackburn with Darwen PCT**

### Company Background

Blackburn with Darwen Primary Care Trust (PCT) provides care to local communities across a number of sites in East Lancashire. Their vision is to enable the people of Blackburn with Darwen to “Live Longer, Live Better” by ensuring that local health services are of high quality and are responsive to the needs of individuals and the community. The PCT has over 5000 IT users spread across 85 sights.

### The Challenge

Blackburn with Darwen PCT’s existing systems had already been in place for 5 years and as a result they were starting to see an increase in the number of problems relating to the hardware. The organisations storage needs had also outgrown the capabilities of the system.

The PCT started having problems in backing up data due to the increase in the amount and due to the sensitivity of the data that was stored on the system. There were also increasing concerns about the lack of resilience that was available. The organisations main objectives of the project were to obtain a system which was easy to manage and could offer the resilience and scalability required.

### The Solution

The PCT wanted a partner that fully understood their storage needs and could provide a relevant solution. They needed a large amount of resilience that could be built in to the system with a Hot and Cold site. They also required the ability to create snap shots of data which would enable them to take a backup every 6 hours. As well as this, they needed a flexible system that they could configure to fit in with their way of working.

ANS Group presented the PCT with a Hitachi based storage solution, renowned for its quality throughout the industry. The storage was virtualised utilising technology from FalconStor which provided the PCT with the snapshot and replications of data with the flexibility to recover data locally or at the cold standby site at a



**Business Challenges... Technology Solutions**

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granular level. The virtualisation of the storage also maintained an agnostic approach to future storage expansion by having no single vendor “tie-in”.

It was the best solution for their needs, both technically and financially. It was also important that the partner could support the solution after the install and as they have received exemplary support from ANS Group previously they were confident this could be delivered. With this in mind it was decided that the PCT would use ANS Group, a long standing partner of the PCT, to install and configure the new file system.

The project was extensive in terms of the impact it would have and the amount of users it would affect as all of their users’ data had to be migrated from the old system onto the new one. ANS Group successfully managed the whole project from the early planning meeting, through to the install and into the onsite training.

#### Business Benefits

The solution was delivered on time and to budget. It also met all of the initial objectives in terms of resilience, scalability and ease of use.

The Storage and DR solution provided the PCT with many business benefits. Primarily it offered the PCT with a full Disaster Recovery provision with failover to a remote Cold site. The solution has also enabled the PCT to deliver a much more reliable file system to all of their users and has given them greater flexibility in how they manage the system and what services they are able to offer to users.