



YOUR VISION.REALISED.

THE HOUSING AGENCY CASE STUDY

Eliminated risk from legacy software through a fully managed application, data hosting services and data migration.



An Ghníomhaireacht
Tithíochta
The Housing Agency

The Pyrite Application



Customer Profile

The Housing Agency is focused on supporting Local Authorities, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, and Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs).

They are a non-commercial state agency under the aegis of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The Housing Agency promote the supply of housing to meet current and future needs.

Industry

Government / Public Service

Business Situation

The Pyrite application had been set up by the Housing Agency as part of the Pyrite Remediation Scheme - to provide an online application appeals process for citizens whose dwellings had been significantly damaged as a result of pyritic heave caused by the swelling of hardcore underground floor slabs.

The application had historically been hosted by the LGMA (Local Government Management Agency), however a new hosting environment was required.

Consequently, the Housing Agency needed to consider the migration of system data to SQL Server 2016 since the application had been running on a combination of Microsoft Windows and SQL Server versions 2008, the support of which was ending in January 2020.

This was a crucial factor in the decision to upgrade the system to mitigate the risks associated with hosting a business-critical application on legacy software.

The Solution

OpenSky conducted a comprehensive review of each component of the current Pyrite production. This review aimed to furnish detailed recommendations on strategising the upgrade in a manner that would cause minimal disruption to the business operations of both the Housing Agency and LGMA.

Solution Technologies

Windows Server 2016

Windows SQL Server 2016

The application, built with robust features, consisted of two primary components; (i) a user-friendly web application interface designed to ensure ease of use, and (ii) a high-performance SQL backend database that promises efficiency and reliability. To cater to different user groups, it was imperative to set up two separate instances of the web interface. The public website serves general users with essential information, while the administrative site, equipped with advanced security features, is exclusively for system administrators, providing them the necessary oversight tools.

Given the inherent risks in migration projects, especially with numerous integrations to other systems, collaboration between OpenSky and the Housing Agency was crucial to ensure timely and successful project delivery. To minimise disruption to business operations and service delivery, downtime was kept to the bare minimum by strategically scheduling testing outside of regular business hours.



Key Features

New Servers with Up to Date
MS Windows & SQL Server

Fully Managed Hosting
Services by OpenSky

Data Migrated to a Fully Supported
& Compliant Software Configuration

Benefits

-  Automatic Updates
-  100% Data Security
-  Fully Compliant
-  Improved System Performance

OpenSky provides 24/7 support to address any network-related issues. With our hosting environment's automatic updates, our cloud computing services have empowered end-users to seamlessly scale up or down, eliminating the need for manual intervention. Prioritising the protection of data and company systems is pivotal for business continuity. Through our migration services, we ensured that data was not only backed up but was also safeguarded in a secure location. As Microsoft Windows and SQL Server 2016 are regularly patched by Microsoft, potential security vulnerabilities and data breaches can be preempted. Additionally, migrating to these server software versions enhanced performance for web applications.

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