



Analysis, design and implementation of IT infrastructures

Who are we?

AIM Consulting SA, based in Lugano, Switzerland, designs and constructs IT infrastructures for network systems and services on Microsoft platforms, drawing on the long experience of its associates.

Particular attention is paid to the professionalism and quality of the advice offered, thanks not only to the application of working standards and methodologies but also to the guarantee offered by the Microsoft certifications of our own consultants.

As further proof of our expertise, AIM is also a Microsoft Certified Partner.

Installation / Migration – Windows 2000 / .NET networks

Good design and implementation of a network infrastructure based on Microsoft technology increases and optimises productivity, as well as providing efficient administration tools. The strengths of Windows 2000 / .Net networks are the use of services such as Active Directory and Group Policies, Distributed File System, Clustering, Network Load Balancing, to name but a few.

Installation of user workstations

The preparation of workstations for users – i.e. installation of operating system and programs – demands the application of a software mastering and distribution strategy. This requirement becomes increasingly pressing as the number of workstations to be administered rises.

Centralisation and consolidation of company data (SAN)

Many businesses are finding it increasingly necessary to defragment company information which is spread over multiple servers and combine it in a single centralised Storage Area Network system (SAN). The centralisation of data makes it possible to have a single point of data access, administration and control. It is also possible to relieve the company network of the overload of data backup by using systems which operate directly on the company SAN.

Company e-mail systems

E-mail has become an indispensable service not only for managing company

relations with the outside world, but also for handling internal affairs between different offices or departments. The efficiency and security of such an important system is achieved by proper design of the service, which must take account of aspects such as the geographical distribution of offices, external Internet access and data backup.

Security in network services

By taking advantage of the Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) services of Windows 2000 / .Net, it is possible to use digital certificates to significantly increase the security of company network services. Among the most interesting applications are strong authentication, carried out by means of a smart card or USB key, encryption and signature of e-mail, and the creation of secure communications channels between servers.

AIM Consulting SA also supplies solutions for protected Internet access via the creation of perimeter defence systems (DMZs).

Case Study

BANCADEL GOTTARDO

Executive summary

Banca del Gottardo is one of the leading Swiss banks offering state-of-the-art private banking services. In order to take advantage of new technologies, Banca del Gottardo decided to transfer its client platform to Windows XP Professional with a view to maximising the efficiency of the system by simplifying administration and reducing costs. To identify and implement a technically-sound solution, the company requested the assistance of AIM Consulting SA, both as a Microsoft Certified Partner and for its technological expertise acquired from previous experience.

Customer's business needs and objectives

The design objectives concentrated on a simple, swift and fully-automated process for the preparation of workstations, which could be carried out even by users with no technical knowledge.

The solution also had to provide the ability to differentiate these workstations according to their final use. As well as the installation and personalisation of the operating system, it was therefore necessary to install specific applications for different types of users.

The automatic software mastering and distribution process had to be integrated with an existing product.

Solution description

In collaboration with Banca del Gottardo, AIM Consulting put together a solution which, using an unattended setup routine with minimal initial intervention on the part of a user, installs and configures Windows XP Professional in the specific context concerned. This solution made it possible to ensure maximum flexibility and independence in the choice of hardware and operating system.

On completion of this operation, the workstations automatically give a report on the existing software distribution infrastructure and inventory, personalised for maintenance of the hardware and software inventory and for the distribution of defined software subsets according to the nature of the machine.

Key metrics

Servers: approximately 20. **Users:** approximately 1200. **Sites:** 12. **Technologies:** Windows 2000 Server, Windows XP Professional, NLBS, DFS, Unicenter TNG Software Delivery Option. **Staff:** 1 Senior Consultant, 2 Consultants with overview by AIM Solution Director.