

Case Study



Engineering a better infrastructure

Client: The Doncasters Group

Industry: Engineering

“With the existing infrastructure, we found it difficult to find applications that would work across our sites. ADA helped us to scope, plan, implement and rollout a complete new system worldwide.”

David Jones
Group IT Manager
Doncasters

At a glance

● Challenge

Operating from 25 sites in Europe, the USA and Mexico, the Doncasters Group was being hampered by a mixed IT infrastructure. Software and services were not standardised, there was no common desktop policy and no integrated update strategy for clients and servers.

● Solution

Applications were already running in the Microsoft environment and there were plans to standardise enterprise resource planning, so Microsoft Windows Server 2003 and Active Directory were chosen over Novell.

● Results

- Deployment and updating of key software is now fast and efficient
- There has been a dramatic reduction in IT administration
- IT security is easier to control – as is the ability to give key employees secure wireless access

Business challenge

The Doncasters Group is a leading international engineering group that manufactures precision components and assemblies for a range of industries. As a result of its growth, it inherited a mixed IT infrastructure across 25 sites which caused significant problems. With various versions of server and network software, it was difficult to manage and support the different environments. IT managers at each site could rarely draw on the experience of managers to resolve issues. The group wanted to roll out standard software at a group level yet weven the introduction of an antivirus tool

was problematic. The need was to standardise file and print services, and create a common desktop policy and integrated update strategy for clients and servers. With many important applications running on Microsoft, the Group decided to standardise using Windows Server 2003 and Active Directory technologies.



ADA solution

After talking to several companies, Doncasters chose Microsoft Gold Certified Partner, ADA, to plan, configure and implement its new infrastructure.

- The first step was to create a high-level design of how Doncasters wanted the Group infrastructure to work
- A plan was created to implement the infrastructure one site at a time, with each site scoped to understand specific requirements and existing security policies
- ADA implemented and configured Windows Server 2003 with Active Directory at a number of pilot sites, replacing Novell and earlier versions of Microsoft technologies
- With the implementation processes proven, ADA completed the rollout worldwide
- A Group-wide HP ProCurve wireless network infrastructure was also installed to create seamless wireless access everywhere

Results

- The ability to deploy software across a distributed infrastructure quickly and efficiently
- A reduction in the support of separate user-account databases on hardware appliances and applications
- The wider availability of new applications to support both business and IT needs
- Improved desktop security and the fast implementation of security updates

Technical overview

Microsoft Server product portfolio:

- Windows Server 2003
- Windows Server 2003 Certificate Services
- Windows Server 2003 Internet Authentication Services
- Microsoft Windows 2000 Server

Technologies:

- Active Directory
- Microsoft Software Update Services



ADA is one of the UK's leading technology services companies with an enviable reputation for technical excellence, service reliability and industry-leading standards. Working closely with manufacturers and partners who represent the best in the IT industry, ADA sources solutions that offer lasting advantages. Similarly, ADA's consulting and field engineering services are based on an approach that considers your business environment as well as your IT infrastructure, ensuring that your IT delivers real business benefits.