

Case Study

KPMG rolls out data analytics platform in its forensic advisory business selecting ControlCircle

KPMG operates as an international network of member firms offering audit, tax and advisory services.

KPMG member firms can be found in over 140 countries. Collectively they employ more than 135,000 people across a range of disciplines. KPMG Forensic Technology is one of the fastest growing of the company's practice areas. While a range of traditional fraud prevention and detection services are provided, other related services, such as data analytics, are rapidly expanding too as clients seek to improve organisational effectiveness.

The challenge

KPMG turned to ControlCircle to help them to deploy a heavy weight data analytics solution with sufficient hardware and processing power to cope with the large data volumes so that it had the right infrastructure in place to support the business moving forward. ControlCircle had to help them to develop, manage and host a custom built platform.

Darren Pauling, director, KPMG Forensic says, "We went out to tender 3 years ago, short listed two datacentre services companies and, after doing the necessary due diligence, selected ControlCircle. Data security was absolutely our key concern, as well as speed of response and accessibility in any chosen supplier. This is the first time we've worked with an outside partner in Forensic as we simply didn't have the resources in-house to expand the operation as fast as we wanted."

Solution offered

ControlCircle provided datacentre space in London with KPMG taking 16 racks, along with power, cabling, and physical security including separate cages within its datacentre suite, CCTV and biometric access. BGP Internet connectivity was provided as part of the fully managed service, as well as consultancy services to design, specify and install the systems in the



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datacentre, and 24x7x365 monitoring and support.

Stephen Gallagher, partner, data analytics, KPMG Forensic says, "We needed a partner who is easy to work with and flexible as our business is very reactive - speed is normally of the essence as projects are typically one off and short term where a client will engage with us for a specific job. ControlCircle's approach supports this."

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ControlCircle played an instrumental role in advising KPMG about the systems to deploy to support a utility computing approach, advising and supplying various systems such as the SAN storage, high performance switch infrastructure and firewall technology.

NetApp's multi protocol FAS3170 storage platform was installed, with KPMG able to pay per client project based on the amount of data stored. The system in the datacentre was configured to provide up to 34TB worth of storage straight away, with the head unit able to scale to 840TB of raw data.

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In order to deploy the first storage on demand model within data analytics, the NetApp FAS system was connected to UNIX-based high availability Sun SPARC Enterprise M5000 servers through Brocade 5000 fibre channel switches running at 4 gigabit per second connectivity. The Sun servers feature dynamic domain and zoning – in effect offering a virtual server capability - to enable multiple UNIX-based applications to run on one physical box so that the data analytics team were able to maximise their capacity.

ControlCircle also managed the installation of Brocade's chassis-based NetIron MLX-16 switching routing platform to provide KPMG complete flexibility in terms of how it manages its network based on the number of client projects being worked on. A core network switch, it offers scalability from gigabit to 10 gigabit Ethernet, MPLS connectivity, wire speed performance, easy deployment of additional switch blades and competitive cost per port pricing.

IT and business outcomes

The pay as you use storage approach based on a per gig stored basis has enabled KPMG to avoid the large upfront costs normally associated with storage where it is necessary to over provision based on need. Equally there are no delays when extra capacity is required as the system is already configured and ready to go. This allows KPMG to respond to client needs and deliver projects far faster, turning the storage on and off as they like, and paying accordingly, which is perfect for a business which is so project based.



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The deployment of this storage on demand model enabled the various practices which form the recently created KPMG Europe LLP entity to have access to the new data analytics platform, in addition to its Indian operation, Citrix Netscaler 9010 series application switches were installed to allow secure SSL VPN functionality with policy filtering.

This means granular control of who can access the system based on IP address – crucial given the sensitivity of projects managed by the forensic team. This is in addition to firewall technology implemented by ControlCircle from Check Point and Juniper.

Inherent in the datacentre services provided by ControlCircle is the ability for KPMG to quickly change the amount of equipment deployed and managed without extra rack space necessarily being required. Once appropriate due diligence technical assessments are carried out, engineers can quickly provision extra power capacity in a rack on a per project basis with KPMG just paying for the extra power consumed.



About ControlCircle

ControlCircle is a privately owned company, founded in 2001 to provide solutions ranging from secure hosting and global connectivity to managing all security, networking, server and database technologies covering a full range of market sectors. The company offers highly skilled and vastly experienced data specialists who design and support resilient enterprise hosting solutions, built on highly available platforms backed by ultra reliable support.

Customers include many of the World's largest online businesses and blue chip companies in the banking, legal, accounting and commercial sectors. They rely on our industry knowledge, technical expertise, innovation, accuracy and skilful team management.

Get in touch

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