



Variety, the Children's Charity

A fully managed private Cloud

Variety, the Children's Charity, aims to increase positive experiences for sick, disabled or disadvantaged children and young people. The charity arranges activities, supports hospitals and hospices, and provides practical help through wheelchairs and in-home medical equipment.

The charity's services are delivered by a combination of committees, staff members and volunteers, with fundraising similarly structured. This large, dispersed group needs to be able to easily communicate, share information and access the tools and systems they need to carry out their work.



The challenge

Variety has a large network of people working with the charity, with a central office in London, nine regional sites and volunteers working from home. The dispersed nature of the charity provided a number of challenges for the IT Manager.

Employees and volunteers working from home or on the move couldn't always access the data and software they needed and providing support services was a challenge. The charity also struggled to manage frequent fluctuations in staff levels during peak periods.

Variety also wanted to improve its Disaster Recovery (DR) strategy. The charity saw a clear opportunity to streamline its IT services, boost company-wide communication and make software accessible to everyone by adopting a cloud computing model.



Our staff can now focus 100% on managing the charity, and we are confident in the knowledge that we have received a robust, secure IT infrastructure from Node4.

Node4 has boosted efficiency across Variety, ensuring our staff can access all the software and applications they need from any location, at any time. Teams can easily share information and staff and volunteers can work from anywhere.

**Adrian Mitchell, IT Manager,
Variety, the Children's Charity**

The solution

Variety opted to work with Node4, who proposed the migration of Variety's IT infrastructure to its fully managed private cloud service, delivering:

- Software as a Service (SaaS) - with the most up to date Microsoft software licences
- Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) - providing a scalable, flexible solution where servers and services can be expanded or reduced on-demand
- Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) - enabling remote access to all applications, SQL databases, Progress CRM and Sun Accounts
- Fully managed support - including a helpdesk and on-site engineers when required

The Node4 solution includes complementary Disaster Recovery (DR) and Business Continuity (BC) services, ensuring the charity has uninterrupted access to data in the event of a disaster. Data and backups are held in an encrypted format and replicated to geographically separate UK database centres for multi-location resiliency.

Node4 also provides Variety with a Virtual IT Director service, at no additional cost. The service, which has significantly reduced the IT Manager's workload, includes an unbiased opinion of the charity's IT situation and future plans, management of third party suppliers, research into emerging technologies and attendance at management meetings.



Node4's excellent work smoothed our transition into the cloud. The migration took place over the weekend, which meant it did not disrupt our normal activity, and we were surprised how quick and easy the process was.

**Adrian Mitchell, IT Manager,
Variety, the Children's Charity**



By moving the delivery of IT services to the Node4 Cloud we have gained significant benefits for our IT operation. Data is backed up automatically in Node4's UK-based data centres and the workload of the IT team has decreased significantly, freeing up time to focus on projects that support the organisation's objectives.

**Adrian Mitchell, IT Manager,
Variety, the Children's Charity**



About Node4

At Node4 we're all about serving fast-growing businesses with the most effective and flexible application of technology, leaving them free to focus on what they do best. We provide Cloud, Colocation, Communication, Connectivity and Managed Services solutions delivered across our national MPLS network powered by industry leading Data Centres based in Derby, Leeds and Northampton.

We believe in flexibility because everyone is different.



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