



Microsoft Customer Solution Customer Solution Case Study



Customer: Noble Environmental Power
Web Site: <http://www.noblepower.com/>
Customer Size: 100-5,000
Country or Region: United States
Industry: Green Energy
Partner: Walker Systems Support

Customer Profile

Founded in 2004 in response to growing demand for clean, renewable energy sources, Noble Environmental Power is a leading renewable energy company with windparks under development in eight states.

Software and Services

- Products
 - Microsoft Office 2007
 - Microsoft Office Project 2003
 - Microsoft Office Visio 2003
 - Microsoft Exchange Server 2007
 - Windows Server 2003 Standard Edition

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Clean Energy Company Powers Up with Microsoft Technology

“I think the best feature has been the capacity for remote access. Many on our team are amazed by the ability to get their work done from a web page that looks and feels like Outlook.”

Director of Information Technology

Noble Environmental Power is a renewable energy company that develops and operates windparks in several states. As the company grew, its technical needs began to exceed the capacity of its existing systems. With Walker Systems Support, the company implemented a new tech infrastructure on the Microsoft platform that reduced costs, boosted productivity and provided room for growth.

Business Needs

Noble Environmental Power is a leading renewable energy company with approximately 3,850 megawatts of windparks under development in several states. Noble's vision is to be a leading supplier of clean, renewable energy from environmentally responsible facilities that will be a source of pride and benefit to the communities where they are located.

The company had grown from four people in 2004 to more than 100 people in 2007. Noble's IT systems had not kept up with the company's rapid growth, and its technical staff were unsure about what would be the best solution to scale with business growth

and support critical processes. While Noble received recommendations for IBM blade server technology, the team decided that this solution may be too large for the company's present needs.

Noble had five servers in place and was using third-party servers to host its e-mail and file transfer protocol (FTP) systems. The Citrix server that housed the company's accounting software was problematic because there was no document-management solution in place. In addition, the company needed the ability to have key employees reliably and securely access the company network remotely, something they could not do with the current setup.



Solution

Walker Systems began the process of ramping up Noble with an extensive preliminary network assessment, which resulted in recommendations of items Noble would need to address during the next several months. Walker's primary concern was to secure the existing environment and then systematically implement new solutions to support Noble's business growth. Each new step was defined, justified and approved as a separate project so that Noble had the option to review the plan in sufficient detail and approve it during each phase.

Noble tapped Walker Systems Support to help implement a Citrix-dedicated server running Microsoft Windows Server 2003 to improve performance and reliability for Noble's accounting systems. A new FTP server also was installed, and Walker helped to configure Microsoft Office Outlook 2007, Outlook Web Access, firewalls and a virtual private network (VPN) to allow for necessary remote access for Noble's growing team.

Other new technology included Microsoft Exchange Server to manage Noble's e-mail and messaging infrastructure, Microsoft Office 2007 and Microsoft Project 2007 for productivity. They also chose to have a server dedicated to the team's network of Blackberry and Treo devices. Finally, a wireless Internet network was installed at Noble's home office to facilitate mobile productivity around the building.

Benefits

By working with Walker Systems to overhaul its technology infrastructure, Noble empowered its employees to function across multiple locations with speed, reliability and

functionality through the features in Microsoft Windows Server 2003

Noble has reduced costs by eliminating fees paid to third-party companies for server hosting. Productivity and efficiency also have been improved as a result of more stable, reliable business applications and remote access systems.

Noble uses Microsoft Project to stay informed and control project work, schedules and finances. In addition, it allows the company to keep project teams aligned through powerful reporting, guided planning and other flexible tools.

Finally, the scalability inherent on the Microsoft platform has improved Noble's ability to grow as the market potential for green, environmentally friendly energy continues to expand.

- The new Microsoft technology has already generated enough cost savings to bring the projects to a financial break-even point only nine months into implementation.
- Noble Environmental Power is now evaluating Microsoft Office SharePoint Server 2007 to manage data for its windparks.