



Success stories

Providing Wescom Defence with complete IT independence

Digital Space provided manufacturer, Wescom Defence with complete IT independence, high levels of security and a new robust infrastructure within a tight timeline and to budget.

Who are Wescom Defence?

Located in Derbyshire and owned by the Wescom Group, Wescom Defence is a world-leading pyrotechnic defence manufacturer, with an extensive military-grade product range covering illumination, signaling, search and rescue, screening, training, security and high energy products.

The manufacturer produces over 3 million Pyrotechnic products annually. Through continuous improvement, robust quality processes and highly skilled technicians and material scientists, the manufacturer ensures that every customer delivery is proofed, tested, and checked to the highest international quality standards.

The challenge

Wescom Defence's journey with Digital Space began in early January 2020 when the IT Team in the Derby business began planning for the divestiture of the business from the former Group entity, Chemring Group, into PE funded private ownership, PWD Group.

As part of this business divestiture, Wescom needed to plan to totally disentangle and sever all IT ties back to the group and set up a true standalone IT environment.

While, they understood the areas needed focus and the opportunities for potential improvement, Wescom had a very small IT team of two and a very aggressive

timeframe to complete the migration before stringent financial penalties would be applied. Therefore, they needed external help in the form of a capable, long-term IT partner that would be able to support the team in migrating the domain infrastructure, security system, backup and storage, migrating certain functions into the Cloud and delivering a solid, secure, reliable and resilient IT environment.

The solution

Digital Space was recommended to Wescom by a former customer and during the competitive tender process the IT provider was able to demonstrate:

- Competitive pricing
- A tailored and skillfully innovative solution to meet the business' individual project needs and future ambitious requirements
- Capability and resources to meet tight timescales within budget
- Unrivalled expertise and knowledge for project success
- A complete resilient solution

As a result, Digital Space was contracted to migrate the domain AD infrastructure, build a new online environment, deploy world-class perimeter and device security, provide an off-site data backup solution and deliver resilient internet connectivity into the Derbyshire site.

To ensure the project could be completed within the tight four-month timescale, Digital Space deployed a team of specialist engineers and project managers to deliver the tailored and ambitious solution:

- Disconnect and re-configure the AD environment for standalone operation.
- Deploy a new Firewall solution into the infrastructure.
- Migrate the on-premise e-mail systems into the Microsoft Azure stack.

- Deploy and configure a new e-mail gateway scanning system.
- Install and configure a new, resilient on-premise/cloud backup solution for on-prem workloads.
- Set up and configure a cloud-cloud backup solution for a new 365 environment.
- Deploy a robust endpoint management solution for all devices.
- Manage Microsoft licensing changes.

However, as the project kicked off in March 2020, the UK entered its first Covid-19 lockdown, which created its own challenges for the team.

On-site project meetings reverted to Teams meetings and the entire project moved to a remote project hosted by Digital Space. Hardware deliveries to the Derby site had to be made by Digital Space's field engineers, rather than courier, as this was critical to ensuring the project was completed to schedule.

By going beyond the extra mile, to ensure there were no delays to the project, Digital Space and Wescom's IT Team were able to successfully complete the full digital transformation project to budget within the four-month timeframe despite Covid restrictions, avoiding the need for Wescom to incur any financial penalties.

Realisation of success

Wescom Defence now has a complete resilient internet solution in place, which will allow the business to scale up and evolve for years to come as they continue their journey further into the Cloud. They are also benefitting from greater agility, security and productivity, leveraging the full Microsoft Azure and Office365 stack into their infrastructure and have firm plans for additional cloud migrations in the future.

Digital Space is continuing to work in close partnership with Wescom to further evolve their digital infrastructure and ensure it stays best in class. Currently we are helping to maintain and manage its IT environment through the provision of Managed Firewalls and Managed Connectivity and the Digital Space team is in constant conversation, recommending new ideas and systems to best evolve the IT infrastructure moving forward.

This was most recently demonstrated via a new acquisition and integration project, where the Derby business was acquired by the Wescom Group, based out of Bremerhaven in Germany, and the German 365 e-mail and security infrastructure was migrated into the Derby environment. Once again, on time and to budget.



Two years ago, Digital Space were instrumental in delivering the first major IT project on our post-enterprise journey, Chexit, the cutaway from the former Group, linked with a successful firewall migration and implementation at the time which subsequently hooked into a successful on-prem file storage migration into SharePoint Online. More lately, the integration of the Bremerhaven users into the Derby infrastructure was another successfully project completion.

The technical resources and project management skills within their various Teams are exemplary, as is their billing and account management. As we are such a small on-site IT Team of two, the SaaS delivery model is vital to us and with Digital Space, we have a most reliable, foresighted, proactive, and technically skilled business partner. They are our go-to-guys (and gals) for IT systems and services.

Peter Onyszkow, IT Manager at Wescom Defence



Digital Space delivers progressive digital solutions that enable organisations to transform at pace.

Focused on enabling change for our customers, we provide a productive, connected and secure platform to maximise data, improve workflow and accelerate growth.

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