



Optimising people, processes and information

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Energy Saving Trust case study

Microsoft .Net and SQL Server Website

The Energy Saving Trust (EST) provides free impartial tailored advice to consumers to cut energy bills and help fight climate change by reducing their overall CO₂ contribution.

Business Challenge

DECC (formerly DEFRA) and EST decided that their third party hosted software did not allow the level of control needed to maintain the software to the most current level, and that the current architecture did not truly promote a high availability model.

The aim was to move the hosted solution to a more cost effective internally hosted model, combined with upgraded infrastructure and a more robust redundancy model, allowing true high availability.

Solution

Ballard Chalmers was chosen to handle the Energy Saving Trust project, based on their reputation with Microsoft SQL Server and Microsoft IIS.

Ballard Chalmers undertook consultations with the website developers at EHS Brann and the Network and Infrastructure teams at EST, to ensure that the hosting transition was detailed to meet the planned move date of January 30th 2009.

A single instance SQL cluster was built to host the working SQL Server database, with storage being provisioned by the EST SAN solution.

Two independent website servers were built fronted by a Radware load balancer to host the working website.

Being a predominantly Oracle House, DBA Training was also provided to allow the DBA Team the ability to build, monitor and maintain the Microsoft SQL Server solution on an ongoing basis.

Technology

- Microsoft Windows 2003 Server
- Microsoft ASP.Net
- SQL Server
- SQL Server Performance Dashboard
- Internet Information Services (IIS)
- Windows Scheduled Tasks

"Thanks for your support – Ballard Chalmers did an awesome job. We are looking at moving more applications to Microsoft technology and we view you as our Microsoft Partner of choice for future work."

IT Project Manager, Energy Saving Trust