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>
> **Kevin Maxwell,** ICT Service Support Manager, Cumbria County Council.

ORGANISATION
Cumbria County Council

INDUSTRY
Public Sector - Local Government

SOLUTION

Objective CONNECT

BENEFITS AT A GLANCE

Critical processes enabled across multiple operating functions

Expedited rebuilding of critical infrastructure post natural disaster

Cost effective licensing model

Accredited by CESG for information up to Official (Sensitive) level providing reassurance to end users, ICT and Information Security

Zero training requirements

Minimal IT management overhead

Cumbria County Council

Cumbria County Council is a large non-metropolitan local authority in the north west of England covering 2,613 sq. miles with a population of approximately half a million. The council is responsible for strategic local services within the county, including: education, libraries & archives, health & social care, economic development, environment & planning, and highways.

With Cumbria considered to be one of the most beautiful regions of the UK and home to the Lake District, tourism contributes over £1 billion per annum to the local economy.

STORM DESMOND

Storm Desmond, an extratropical cyclone, hit Cumbria on December 5th, 2015. With a record breaking 341.4 mm of rain falling within 24 hours, Cumbria Police declared the situation a "major incident". With nearly 6,500 houses flooded, 45,000 left without power, and key roads and bridges severely damaged, the immediate total costs of the storm were estimated at more than £500m.

However, this amount was small in comparison to the potential longer term costs to the Cumbrian economy if the rebuilding process on the county's severely damaged key infrastructure was not completed as soon as possible.

REBUILDING CUMBRIA

With around 600 assets (roads, bridges and other infrastructure), David Sheard (Cumbria County Councils' Programme Manager in Economy and Highways) and his team had a daunting task on their hands.

Each asset required an Assessment Report to be produced (to understand the nature and extent of damage to it) and then a Solution Scope (detailing how it would be repaired and the associated costs).

Completing such a complex and crucial task required collaboration with a large number external contractors and civil engineers. The work only made harder due to its urgency.

GREAT GOVERNANCE »»
BETTER BUSINESS

Objective

KEY METRICS

ASSESSMENT REPORTS
CREATED FOR
600 ASSETS

EXTERNAL COLLABORATION
WITH MANY CONTRACTORS & CIVIL ENGINEERS

ASSESSING THE OPTIONS

When considering how best to manage the rebuilding process, David understood that being able to work quickly and easily on large volumes of information, with a large number of external parties, was going to be critical to the success of the project. During his investigations, David assessed a Secure Email and Large File Transfer Service, USBs and Objective Connect.

"USB memory was not an option due to the requirement for encrypted memory sticks being mandatory across the County Council platform, " said David. The Secure Email and Large File Transfer Service also missed the mark. Unless the external participant had their own Secure Email or File Transfer account there was only a single directional flow of information.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT SOLUTION

At the end of the investigation, Cumbria Council made the decisive call to use Objective Connect to manage the information being generated in the aftermath of Storm Desmond.

"Objective Connect was considered to be the right solution due to its compliance with security protocol and ease of access by independent organisations outside the public sector," said David.

OBJECTIVE CONNECT'S VALUE

Objective Connect has sped up the rebuilding of Cumbria's infrastructure by enabling David and his team to complete a significant number of reports more quickly than they would otherwise have been able to.

"Objective Connect provides an effective solution for the sharing, transfer and editing of these documents across the team before final sign off yet complying with the security protocols required by the public sector IT infrastructure," said David. This, in turn, means that there is a reduced impact on the Cumbrian economy from the floods of December 2015, and life has been able to return to normal more quickly.

USED BEYOND THE REBUILD

Before Storm Desmond, Objective Connect had already been selected by Cumbria County Council's ICT Department as its external collaboration platform of choice.

Objective Connect was seen as the most cost effective solution that offered both the security required by the Council's governance team and the ease-of-use required by the internal and external user community.

In addition to being used by David Sheard's Economy & Highways team, Objective Connect is also used within:

- Legal Services to exchange case notes with private law firms and barristers.

- Health Care and Community Services to share client case notes and support plans with external healthcare agencies.

- IT Services to collaborate with suppliers and consultants on sensitive data related to IT projects.

- Archives to distribute genealogy and other research results with paying clients.

Kevin Maxwell, the ICT Service Support Manager, commented "Objective Connect has provided us with an easy-to-use COMsecure solution for our file sharing needs. The system could not be easier to use and provides reassurance to our end users, ICT and Information Security alike.

ABOUT OBJECTIVE CORPORATION

Objective Corporation (ASX:OCL) creates information and process governance solutions that are effortless to use and enable organisations to confidently advance their own digital transformation.

Designed for regulated industries, these solutions turn the imperative of compliance, accountability and governance into an opportunity to streamline business processes and deliver the innovative services that customers expect.

With a heritage in Enterprise Content Management (ECM), Objective's expanded solutions extend governance across the spectrum of the modern workplace; underpinning information, processes and collaborative work-spaces.

Through a brilliant user experience, people access the information they need to progress processes from wherever they choose to work.

OBJECTIVE CORPORATION LIMITED
Asia Pacific: +61 2 9955 2288 | Europe: +44 118 207 2300

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