

QQI replaces Veeam with StorageCraft to back up its Office 365 data and ticks regulators' compliance boxes.



Client Profile

Company

Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI)

Country

Ireland

Industry

Education

Employees

90

Solutions

Cloud Backup for
Microsoft Office 365

Introduction

Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) is an independent State agency responsible for the promotion of quality, integrity and accountability in education and training services in Ireland.

Established in 2012, resulting from the amalgamation of four state agencies, QQI regulates the quality of programmes offered by schools, colleges, further and higher education and training institutions. Its role is to promote, maintain and develop the National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) in Ireland, ensuring excellence across the board and upholding a positive, high-quality education and training experience to native and international learners.

The challenge

QQI has an intranet for its internal data, accessed by around 90 members of staff. It also hosts a separate production site for its line of business services, connecting to over 4,000 remote customers.

QQI's legacy datacentre and terrestrial equipment reached the end of their lifespan. Given the urgency of the requirements of amalgamation, QQI decided it was appropriate and expedient to move to Microsoft's Azure (Infrastructure As A Service), and also to the Office 365 platform as part of a business plan to move data management where needed to a Software as a Service (SaaS) model.

Over the last four years, QQI completed the migration of all of its data to the cloud-based infrastructure, adopting a client-to-cloud model with serverless branch networks. All of its intranet folders now reside in Office 365, with its segregated line of business production site hosted in Microsoft Azure under a separate facility. No data is held locally, and file servers and domain controllers residing in Microsoft Azure are accessed via a VPN connection.

Prior to its move to the cloud, QQI had been using Veeam to back up its terrestrial infrastructure, but this was obsoleted with the move to Azure, where access to the hypervisor is not available or required. QQI needed the reassurance of a robust backup solution, which would secure their data without returning it to terrestrial storage.

Luke Johnson, ICT, and William Clutterbuck, ICT Systems Architect, realised that with their cloud-centric approach, the need for a secure cloud to cloud backup solution with independent storage became clear.

“Aside from the reassurance of knowing that we have a backup, we have to comply with audit requirements for security and recoverability, ensuring our data is accessible beyond Microsoft’s 90 day recycle bin retention period,” explained Luke.

QQI began its search for a secure and efficient solution that would be able to back up its Office 365 data at regular intervals, enabling files to be restored easily should the worst occur.

The solution

QQI engaged IT managed service provider Paradyn to help find a solution and after reviewing a range of options, including its existing supplier Veeam, QQI chose to implement StorageCraft Office 365 Cloud Backup. The ease of use, simplicity and flexibility StorageCraft afforded was central to QQI’s choice.

“StorageCraft has a simple licensing model and strong method of recovery that retains the structure of the folder hierarchy. This makes it possible to reinstate data with a hierarchy that the user is already familiar with, saving time and reducing inconvenience”

William Clutterbuck
ICT Systems Architect

Customer service was also important and the team at QQI valued the technical support and personal service that StorageCraft provided from the beginning.

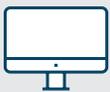
“StorageCraft’s solution was easy to deploy and use, especially when combined with the excellent technical support from the StorageCraft team which added a certain degree of comfort during the onboarding process. We did consider one or two other vendors, but there wasn’t the same simple value proposition as we had with StorageCraft. Also, of notable value was the truly concierge-level onboarding service which StorageCraft afforded us as the project got underway. The pricing structure was more transparent, and we knew that StorageCraft was well backed, well resourced and with data, domiciled within the EU.”

Results

QQI deployed StorageCraft Office 365 Backup in December 2018, and the organisation has already started realising the benefits, with a streamlined and efficient solution that ticks regulators’ compliance boxes.

“We set it once and then we just forgot about it. Backups happen automatically - it couldn’t be easier,” said William.

What’s more, all of QQI’s O365 backed up data is held securely in StorageCraft’s data centre, which is highly distributed and fault-tolerant, with regular status reports offering added peace of mind.



Learn More

www.StorageCraft.com/uk



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