



“Axon really heard, understood and delivered our critical project outcomes,”

says Otago Polytechnic CIO Michael Collins.

“Our migration project created a solid Microsoft platform for us to deliver a range of new services to staff and students. A key outcome we wanted was the ability to continue supporting the new platform with our in-house expertise, so knowledge transfer was critical. We felt Axon was the only vendor that really heard and understood the importance of that.”

“Furthermore, Axon’s project management was brilliant, I can’t fault it.”

Application Platforms Axon has the technical competency to help customers develop the optimal solution architecture, deployment methods and operational support models. By getting these elements right, Axon enables organisations to improve efficiency and service levels, reduce complexity and lower their total cost of ICT ownership over time. **For more information call 0800 80 60 90, OR visit www.axon.co.nz.**

When Otago Polytechnic decided to make a complete swap from its Novell environment to Microsoft, it selected Axon to execute a transformational project to replace the institution’s entire underlying infrastructure with a new Microsoft environment. The Polytechnic wanted to be completely self sufficient at the end of the project, able to support the new environment without need for external resources. During the nine-month project, Axon partnered with the Polytechnic’s internal staff to smoothly transfer key intellectual property. The project laid a solid platform enabling the Polytechnic to deliver a wider range of services and technologies to staff and students.

Knowledge transfer at heart of Polytechnic transformation

When Otago Polytechnic decided on a complete shift from Novell to Microsoft, it needed a project partner that could effect a knowledge transfer so deep it would leave the Polytechnic self-sufficient in supporting its new environment.

Axon worked with Otago Polytechnic to migrate core IT services, staff and student users, file data, servers, printing services, workstations and email from the legacy Novell environment to a Microsoft environment – with minimal disruption to users. The nine-month project included migration to Active Directory and the set up of System Center Configuration Manager for desktop management and application deployment.

“Axon presented an affordable solution for a tight budget, and their experience was attractive – they’ve done it before, very successfully.”

The project laid a solid platform for the Polytechnic to deliver new services to staff and students, says Otago Polytechnic CIO Michael Collins.

“Axon’s work prepared us for phase two, in which we rolled out Microsoft SharePoint campus-wide to staff and students for collaboration and document control. We will also be delivering Microsoft Office Communications Server campus-wide for voice, presence and collaboration,” he says.

Otago Polytechnic’s legacy Novell environment had limited New Zealand support and integrating new products into that environment was sometimes difficult.

“Integration into our initial print cost recovery system was extremely problematic” Michael Collins says. “Systems integration is easy and quick now. Administration will be much easier long term. Life will be better for end users too – it’s easy to provide new productivity tools in the Microsoft environment.”

Otago Polytechnic went to tender for the project. One of the most important criteria was its desire to emerge from the project completely self sufficient, able to support the new environment internally.

“We felt Axon was the only vendor that really heard and understood the importance of that,” says Michael Collins. “We’ve got a lot of very good, technically strong staff. We wanted to continue supporting the new platform with our in-house expertise, so knowledge transfer was critical. We needed a team that would work well with our technicians.”

Axon’s proven ability to transfer intellectual property, evidenced by work with other customers, was important. “We could relate to Axon very well,” says Michael Collins. “Axon presented an affordable solution for a tight budget, and their experience was attractive – they’ve done it before, very successfully.”

Axon trained Polytechnic staff onsite throughout the project. When the project ended, Otago Polytechnic made a clean break, fully trained and able to manage its own support.

The project was on time and under budget – within \$2,000 of Axon’s original estimate.

“Given that we were replacing the whole infrastructure, a lot could have gone wrong,” Michael Collins says. “Axon’s project management was brilliant, I can’t fault it.”

Axon’s SOE Migration Capabilities: Novell to Microsoft

Axon has extensive experience and proven success in seamlessly migrating entire operating environments, and implementing desktop management and deployment tools (such as Microsoft System Center Configuration Manager), with minimal disruption to the customer. Solutions are easily tailored to the customer’s specific requirements and environment.

- Extensive experience and knowledge of industry-leading migration tools
- Custom migration scripting
- Comprehensive experience and knowledge of Novell, GroupWise and Zen products
- Comprehensive experience and knowledge of Microsoft Active Directory, Exchange and System Center Configuration Manager products
- Stringent testing and compatibility processes: Proof of Concept migration used to minimise risk and ensure a seamless migration.

For more information about Axon’s Application Platforms capabilities, visit: www.axon.co.nz