



Empowering everyone affected by bipolar to live well and fulfil their potential.

With its legacy remote desktop system about to be retired, Conor Butcher, Bipolar UK's Data Officer, needed a new virtual working environment for his team. Working closely with Chess, Bipolar UK opted for a Windows Virtual Desktop environment running Microsoft 365, accessed Windows laptops and hosted on the Windows Azure platform.



Solutions

**Windows Virtual
Desktop**

The Business Challenge

Though it is based in London, the charity's team of 14 staff had to operate remotely during the 2020 COVID pandemic, supporting over 85 peer support groups across the UK and an eCommunity of over 5000 active users.

The charity's legacy remote desktop system was a proprietary platform that was approaching the end of its operational life, becoming slow and increasingly unreliable. Recognising that his team needed an intuitive virtual desktop environment, Conor called in Chess to discuss the possible alternatives.

Required Solution Features

As a charity, budget is a key factor in any investment decision. Conor needed a future proof virtual desktop system that would:

- Replace the legacy, increasingly unreliable server-based system
- Be intuitive for his distributed team
- Be optimised to work with recently deployed Windows laptops
- Allow existing data to be migrated from the standalone server to the new cloud-based server
- Be quick and easy to roll out to users
- Allow different levels of user access permissions and preferences
- Be managed centrally
- Enable privacy and security in a highly regulated sector

Finally, all users would need training on how to use the new system.



The Solution

A WVD solution was deployed quickly, providing Bipolar UK network users with the combined benefits of Windows 10 and Microsoft 365.

All files and folders were made available using different user permissions to authorised users as required and no data was lost in the process. All files on user machines now sync with One Drive.

The migration was delivered safely and securely, and for added security and compliance, Chess supplied a two-factor authentication solution on top of the built-in security features of Microsoft 365.

As a subscription-based solution, the Windows Virtual Desktop solution also now offered a favourable 'pay as you go' pricing model for the charity.

“ Chess helped me identify a way forward from our clunky old server-based file share system to an ultra-modern virtual working environment which our team find simple and easy to use. The work they did not only in understanding and scoping our requirements but in deploying the new system, migrating our data and getting users up and running was super-impressive. ”

Conor Butcher, Data Officer at Bipolar UK



The Outcome

The new Windows Virtual Desktop means that Bipolar UK's team now have access to a ready-made virtual machine running Windows, no matter where they may be working.

It means they can work anywhere, at any time in an intuitive way, meaning very little support or management overhead for Conor.

From a cost perspective, Bipolar UK doesn't need to worry about any additional charges.

WVD is managed via the Microsoft Azure Portal, which means it is scalable and future proof. And finally, with the inherent security of Microsoft 365 and the 2FA system, Bipolar UK is running a very secure system to protect its data and users.

“ Our new Windows Virtual Desktop makes IT so much easier for our staff. We simply log on to our system and everything is there for us – it just works as it should. ”

Conor Butcher, Data Officer at Bipolar UK



Chess is one of the UK's leading independent and trusted technology service providers, employing 300 skilled people across the UK, supporting over 20,000 organisations.

By leveraging world-class technology, Chess helps you to connect your people, protect your data, grow your business, reduce your costs and work better together, which means your business, your people and your customers can thrive. At Chess, we're passionate about our unique culture and our continuous investment in our people to be industry experts.

We're extremely proud that our people voted us No.1 in 'The Sunday Times 100 Best Companies to Work for' list 2018, and we continue to celebrate more than ten years in the top 100.



Contact Us

Phone
0808 278 0431

Website
ChessICT.co.uk

Chess ICT
Bridgford House,
Heyes Ln,
Alderley Edge
SK9 7JP

