

### Are you ready for 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014?

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The end of support for Windows XP and Office 2003 is fast approaching! After 8<sup>th</sup> April 2014 there will be no more security fixes or bug fixes, or technical support from Microsoft.

This may pose significant problems for your organisation, and Microshade VSM can significantly reduce the costs and complexities of upgrading your local IT systems to mitigate the risks.

#### **Risks associated with running these systems after support is withdrawn include:**

**Security:** Unsupported and unpatched Windows XP or Office 2003 systems are vulnerable to new security risks which emerge every day, such as attack from viruses, spyware and malware.

**Compliance:** Internal and external audit bodies may fail your system audit, leading to suspension of certifications, reflecting an inability to maintain systems and protect data.

**Unsupported Programs and PCs:** It will become increasingly difficult to get support for your old programs and hardware.

*Microsoft advises that if your organisation has not started the migration to a more modern desktop environment, you are already late!*

#### **How can Microshade VSM help?**

We offer a low cost alternative to in-house computing with the additional major benefits of security, backup, accessibility, continuity and flexibility.

**Avoid unnecessary PC or Server replacement** – With application hosting, avoid the cost of expensive new PC hardware to run the latest Microsoft products. Many PCs can simply be updated to Windows 7 or 8. Your hosted programs run quickly even on a basic PC, and your files and folders are securely stored and protected on our managed servers, allowing you to decommission your local server and recoup the associated support costs.

**Simplify and safeguard the upgrade process** – with your applications and files migrated to our hosted service, your PC upgrade is a far simpler exercise – no need for risky program updates and data restore, and in the event something goes wrong with your PC, you can relax in the knowledge that your files and programs remain secure.

**Avoid Microsoft Office licence purchase** – no need to spend capital on replacing or upgrading your Office 2003 licences. We can provide these on a pay per month basis.

**Future-proof your IT** – with your MS Office licences provided on a pay per month contract, the current versions will always be available to you as part of your contract.

**Flexibility** – As your IT requirements change we can simply add users, with access to the latest versions of the software you need (for example Microsoft Office), to your pay per month contract. Alternatively, if you need to reduce the numbers of users, this is equally simple and quick to do.

**CALL US 01752 869053 OR EMAIL [enquiries@microshadevsm.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@microshadevsm.co.uk)  
TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION**



**Now it's so easy for councillors to keep in touch...**

**Welcome**

We are really pleased to be able to welcome the following new customers:

Burghfield Parish Council

Mant Leisure

Royal Wootton Bassett Town Council

Bishops Stortford Town Council

VSM Share is a password-protected file sharing service operated by Microshade VSM that offers secure access to your published files from any web browser.

The facility enables you to share documents, agendas, and pictures without the problem of e-mailing large attachments, enabling you to collaborate with councillors, customers and suppliers outside your organisation.

Simply drop files into the special VSM Share folder on your Citrix menu and publish with the click of a button. These files are accessible with the use of a user name and password, from anywhere.



**Improve your productivity and efficiency with Corel PDF Fusion**

PDF Fusion is your all-in-one PDF toolkit. It has been specifically designed to save office workers time in their daily tasks, without unnecessary complexity.

With the intuitive drag and drop user interface, you can revolutionise the way you create PDF documents.

**Save Time and Money!**

**PDF Fusion** opens over 100 file formats without having to purchase additional software.

Merges incompatible files quickly and easily – simply drag and drop.

Allows you to reuse the content from existing documents without starting from scratch.

Outputs either PDF files or presentation slides.

*It's perfect for creating planning documents and collating agendas for meetings from multiple sources into a single PDF or presentation. Once you've got it, it's one of those tools you can't live without!*



**Microshade VSM**

11 Scott Building  
Tamar Science Park  
1 Davy Road  
Plymouth

Phone: 01752 869053  
E-mail: enquiries@microshadevsm.co.uk

**www.microshadevsm.co.uk**

You can also follow us on Twitter @microshadevsm to find out what else we have been up to and what is new

*"My members and I are extremely pleased to be now using the Microshade VSM Hosted Applications. It provides not only greater transparency to the members but also an important safeguard for the unexpected that occasionally happens"*  
*Bruce Poole BA (Hons) Fellow ILCM MMC*  
*East Huntspill Parish Council*