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Applications

Ghim Li Group migrates to SharePoint to improve productivity and save costs

By Networks Asia staff | Monday, January 5, 2015 - 09:47

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NEWS

Singapore-based textile and apparel company Ghim Li Group realized they were facing issues with sharing documents amongst their staff when multiple versions of the same document were being sent for review and approval with nobody sure of which was the final copy that needed to be signed off on.

As an international textile and apparel company with production responsibilities for global Fortune 500 retailers including US-based Macy's, Aeropostale, and Walmart, Ghim Li needed close collaboration between the design and manufacturing teams to reduce duplication and confusion.

Ghim Li had first started their journey with Office 365 earlier in December 2012, where Exchange was first to go live.

The company already had additional experience in deploying Microsoft's unified global telephony and audio-video conferencing platform that was saving them up to S$50,000 annually in time and travel costs.

So they began to look at other solutions from Microsoft to help them improve productivity.

The company developed a cloud-hosted portal for use by management in SharePoint that allowed them to share and co-edit documents online and avoid overwriting someone else's work. Even if did, version control was able to solve any issues.

Timothy Ngui, the CIO & SVP Corporate Services at Ghim Li Global Pte Ltd said that the company also enjoyed the benefits of a flexible and easily scalable solution without bursts of additional capital expenditure, and keyword searchable files indexed using Office365 and SharePoint without need for on-premise server resources.

Ngui said that the initial deployment of SharePoint Online only took place in mid-2013 with senior management and HR teams with the logistics planning team recently brought onboard. They are now looking to migrate their product design and development teams onto SharePoint as well.

The company initially experienced some challenges with the file size limits SharePoint had, but this challenge has also been eradicated with the update to OneDrive for Business feature, where it can now support file sizes of up to 10GB.

"With the migration to SharePoint, we have managed to save approximately $50,000 in costs, which would have been previously required for the procurement of additional on-premise storage, upgrading existing PCs in factories and annual maintenance fees," Ngui said.

Helping drive efficiency and other benefits

The move to SharePoint has also driven efficiency among employees. "There are no longer worries of accidental overwriting of files along our employees which used to happen with our previous file server system," Ngui said, "There is also no longer confusion with multiple copies of documents in drive. All these improvements have actually helped employees save an average of 3 work days in time per user for logistics (specific to tasks) on each project. More importantly, we are now able to avoid the possibility of requiring file recovery services which is costly and impactful to business due to the downtime required in order to recover loss data."

Collaborating on SharePoint means that employees are always assured that they are working on the latest versions of the file. They are also more confident of the system, and are able proceed with their tasks more effectively. More importantly, there's no worry of bloated email accounts with daily updates of the same file Ngui explained.

In addition, the move to SharePoint has also helped lessen the burden on the network bandwidth due to lesser uploads and downloads of documents.

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