



The Wingate Group was established in 1970 and is based in Caterham, Surrey with 40 staff members. It includes two businesses. Wingate Financial Planning is an award-winning firm of Chartered Financial Planners helping individuals to understand and achieve their lifetime financial goals. Wingate Benefit Solutions aspires to be the employee benefit consultants of choice for small and medium sized businesses (SMEs).

Extech Cloud helped create a modern workplace for employee benefits consultants

Background

Extech Cloud began working with the Wingate Group in 2018, initially providing support and advising on how to renew aging IT systems.

At the time, the team had tired on-site servers, with an application hosted by a private cloud provider, although they were already in the process of evaluating a SaaS cloud line of business application. Wingate required the legacy application as a system of record to retain access to client history.

The Wingate Group also had several critical requirements that were essential when it came to moving their IT operations to the Cloud. Security, GDPR compliance and meeting industry standards, and what's required of insurance and financial Institutions, were top of the list.

Journey to the cloud

At the time of the move to the Cloud, the **Modern Workplace** concept was still relatively new. The team at Extech Cloud developed a Cloud infrastructure for the company and configured management for user accounts, endpoint security and compliance policies, giving the team at Wingate peace of mind.

Emails were then migrated to the Cloud, along with company files and data to **SharePoint** and **OneDrive**. The company was also set up with **MS Teams** for better collaboration.

The team also required occasional access to their legacy application, which was only needed for infrequent query access. They required SQL and application servers which are usually costly to run and require high resource.

Since the legacy application was only needed on an infrequent basis, Extech Cloud created an innovative full hosting environment for the **application** and configured **Azure servers** to start up and shut down for 3 hours each day, for 2 days a week. As Azure, a Microsoft hosting platform, is billed purely on usage, the team at Extech Cloud helped to reduce Wingate's costs from 744 hours each month to only 24 hours each month, achieving significant cost savings.

Day-to-day support

Today, Extech Cloud provides **support** for any issues and requests that come from 40 Wingate staff members. The team is on-hand to provide advice on security and compliance standards as and when it's needed, along with ensuring that processes are documented in line with regulatory body requirements at all times.

Day-to-day tasks include managing endpoint devices, ensuring they are patched, updated, encrypted and in good health, to managing Wingate's Office 365 tenant and ensuring that any changes to the product set are evaluated and introduced as and when they're required. Extech Cloud manages the Azure hosting service and ensures that appropriate product versions are used by the team.

Working from home

Where day-to-day business operations at Wingate Benefit Solutions had once revolved entirely around on-premise servers, the team can now **operate from anywhere**.

In uncertain and challenging times during the COVID-19 lockdown, very little IT support was needed. Thanks to the Cloud, Wingate Group employees could be sent home without any hesitation and were instantly able to pick up their work remotely.



“We moved all our staff seamlessly from working in the office to their homes with no management support necessary and Microsoft Teams has become our new best friend!”

Paul Weeks,
Commercial Director



If you need one-off **IT support** to get your team working from home (#WFH) more effectively, **Extech Cloud** can help. We can also take your whole business operation into **the Cloud**, giving you the freedom you need with affordable monthly payments. Break the IT CAPEX cycle!

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Gold Cloud Platform
Gold Cloud Productivity
Gold Application Development
Gold Small and Midmarket Cloud Solutions
Silver Collaboration and Content

