



## CASE STUDY

# Solving a Financial Service Provider's Need for Enhanced Secure Data and Communications

## Background

A financial services provider specializing in commodities, foreign Exchange, and managed futures hired MXOtech to upgrade their internal and external systems and provide a secure solution to their data needs.

The company had grown from a small and disjointed network model and required a network infrastructure and operating system that matched its increasingly sophisticated requirements. These needs included a more reliable and secure Exchange server solution, improved application development lifecycle, a better back-up data system, and enhanced communication for remote users.

Improving a disjointed network infrastructure and operating system to match increasingly sophisticated business requirements.

## The Approach

MXOtech made a series of recommendations to the financial services company to strengthen its core operations.

Site surveys were performed at the outset to get an understanding of the existing network configuration. The new network architecture was designed to undertake improvements to all of their issues and provide for future growth.

The existing contracted hosted Exchange solution was replaced by a proprietary, easily accessible and colo-hosted Exchange solution. MXOtech would also be creating a three tier backup system for them utilizing Shadow Copies, onsite and offsite backups, the latter in a secure remote co-location.

A Blackberry Enterprise server was also installed so that remote users can have 24/7 secure yet convenient access to e-mail, calendar, contacts, tasks, and notes.

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## Results

Today the firm's Exchange e-mail is hosted out of the secure co-location and can be accessed using Outlook Web Access or RPC over HTTP(S). This provides for secure access to e-mail from anywhere with Internet access and eliminates the monthly fee from the contracted hosted Exchange.

To assist with the application development life cycle, MXOtech installed a Microsoft Hyper-V server. This server allows for individual virtual machines to be installed on one hardware server thereby enhancing production quality, creating server consolidation and eliminating wasted CPU cycles and costs.

MXOtech created three virtual machines on the Hyper-V server; development, test, and system test. Each virtual machine supported a step in the application development life-cycle. MXOtech also installed a Citrix XenApp server and a Citrix Access Gateway to facilitate reliable, easily accessible, and secure remote access. And as a result of the backup solution their data is more secure and consistently available.

Remote users now have full access to their Exchange mailbox from their Blackberry devices providing for constant and reliable communication.

Secure access to e-mail from anywhere with Internet access and elimination of the monthly fee from the contracted hosted Exchange.

## Technology

- **Network:** Exchange Server 2003 provides e-mail, scheduling, task management, and a central repository of notes.
- **Backups:** Backups are run daily with an archive of one month. MXOtech recommends a three-tier backup system utilizing an onsite backup, Shadow Copy, and an offsite backup.
- **Mobile Access:** Blackberry Enterprise Server provides mobile access to Exchange e-mail, calendar, contacts, task list, and notes.