

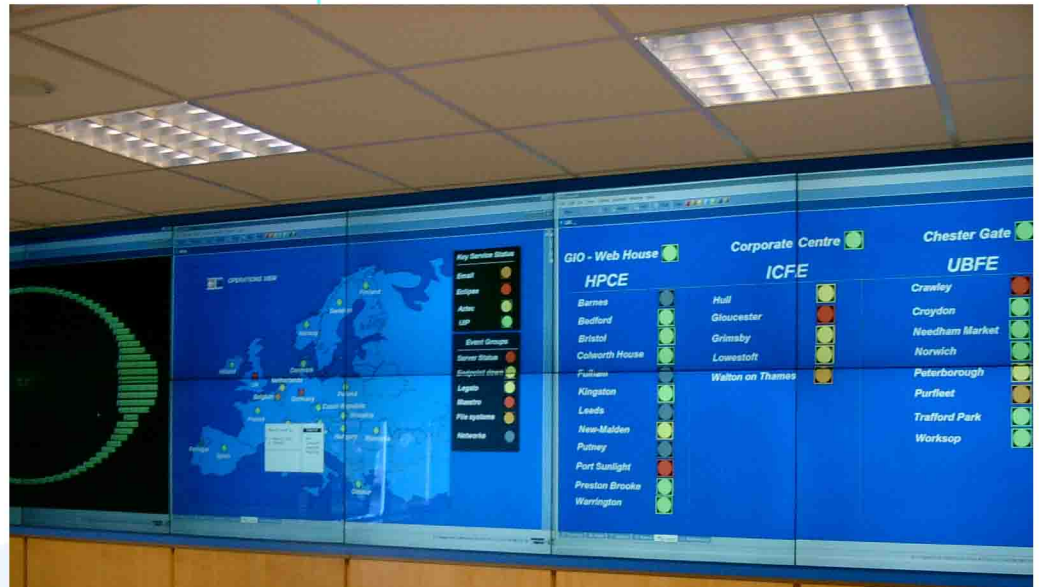
Clearly in control

Unilever

INFORMATION IS THE BLOOD OF THE BUSINESS

systems

Unilever are dedicated to meeting the everyday needs of people everywhere. They provide washing powder, shampoo, toothpaste, teas, ice cream, oils and spreads for consumers all over the world.



" A very smooth installation. Delivery, installation and commissioning happened as advertised. Harp were in on the Monday and had sign off by Friday lunch time.

A good job well done."

Paul Cattrell
Facilities Co-ordinator
Unilever plc

secure

CASE STUDY

Challenge

With six weeks before the end of Unilever's financial year, they had to have an installed and operational data centre bridge from which they could monitor and control their communications network and mission critical computing processes. The system had to be installed and maintained with the minimum amount of space, leaving more area for the operators to work. Although Unilever had a fixed budget to work within they still wanted the best they could get for the money available. Similarly the ongoing running costs were of major concern as they did not want to commit to something that they could ill afford to maintain in the future.



Ergonomic issues had to be taken into account as the operators need to read the information on the screen from 7m, the second row of desks. This called for careful selection of screen size, resolution and font size of the application.

Once the operational issues had been highlighted the cosmetics of the installation required some thought as, the bridge is the main area that potential customers would come to visit. It was Unilever's intention to not only look after their own needs but also sell their services to other companies that require process monitoring.

The system was to have a high availability as it would become the monitoring tool that would highlight any failures. It was essential that the system, once installed, was easily serviceable. In the event of failure each piece of equipment could be replaced within 15 minutes.

Strategy

Selecting and acquiring the projectors for the project was going to be the critical path throughout the project. It was important to review the possible projectors that would fit the bill, trial them and get them ordered. Because of the limited space a front serviceable, rear projection cube was the only solution. The technology selection would then be the next task, DLP or LCD. For this, a full room layout would be required so that the viewing angles and distances could be modelled. Analysis of the computers being monitored showed that they were both Microsoft Windows and Unix based. All computers could be seen and accessed over a single network, so no special picture in picture cards were required.

Solution

The trial dictated the projector to be used, the Clarity Wildcat 40" cube. It has a depth of less than 16" and is completely front serviceable. When a 12pt font is viewed from 7m it delivers a very legible image. Other solutions, including the 50" DLP, were only considered but although they gave a similar legibility of characters they did not have the advantage of small depth. The video wall processor used was Harp's own NTDW which would work purely in PC mode. The NTDW makes a video wall work as if it were a giant PC. It maintains the native resolution across each of the walls projection cubes delivering resolutions up to 16k by 16K pixels.



Result

A video wall solution that achieved its basic objectives in viewing angle and distance requirements in the smallest possible depth. The system was housed in a tailored, piece of joinery designed and built by Harp, that matched the rest of the furniture in the room. The system can be maintained by removing the screens on the individual cubes. The bridge, with its video wall, has now become the centre of Unilever's IT world where all of its networks and computer processes are monitored 24 hours a day.

The bridge was a key part of the site tour taken by the Duke of Edinburgh when it visited the site three months later. It enables Unilever to give an understanding of the full breadth and depth of its computer network and the processing power needed to keep such a large company running smoothly.



HARP

VISUAL COMMUNICATION SOLUTIONS

Harp Visual Communications Limited
Unit 7 Swanwick Business Centre
Bridge Road
Lower Swanwick
Southampton
SO31 7GB
Tel. 01489 580011
Fax. 01489 580022
www.harvisual.com