STRIDON

changing perception from within

WEDLAKE BELL

Technology refresh at law firm Wedlake Bell's office future-proofs the business and provides a new way of working.

Wedlake Bell

New Office.
Technology refresh.
Full Wi-Fi coverage.
Disaster Recovery-as-a-Service.
Network resilience.

Wedlake Bell LLP, one of the City's leading independent law firms, provides legal advice to businesses and high net worth individuals from around the world.

At the time, Wedlake Bell had approximately 140 lawyers in central London and affiliations with law firms throughout Europe and in the United States. The firm's core practice areas are commercial and residential property, construction, intellectual property and commercial, IT, corporate, data protection, employment, pensions & employee benefits, finance, insolvency, private client, family and commercial litigation.

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The vision of a modern, forward-thinking law firm

In 2016 Wedlake Bell had outgrown their offices at Bedford Row.

With a vision to modernise the firm, they wanted to offer their employees new ways of working in an open plan and collaborative environment. This simply was not possible at Bedford Row, so the management team decided to move to a new slick City address in Queen Victoria Street.

> *"Bedford Row was very traditional, but this office is the complete opposite –
> very modern and open-plan and will be able to accommodate future growth."*

This was an ideal opportunity to review the firm's IT strategy and evaluate the existing network infrastructure and services to make sure they could support a modern, forward-thinking and agile law firm. As a result of this evaluation Wedlake Bell decided to re-design their IT architecture which would be integral to the new office design plans.

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Future-proofed for continual service improvement

During the 4-month period leading up to the office move, Stridon worked alongside the IT and architectural design teams to specify and build a technology plan that would deliver a resilient and future-proof network infrastructure.

This would have to support all the employee and client services that Wedlake Bell needed to make available, whilst strengthening their business continuity and disaster recovery plan.

"We had to ensure that the technology underpinning our new premises was right – it had to be future-proofed", explained David Hymers, Head of IT at Wedlake Bell.

Stridon looked at everything the firm would need for a smooth transition into their new workspace – from infrastructure, Wi-Fi, voice and collaboration, to full project management and the support required thereafter.

The back-end architecture was refreshed to ensure it supported the outcomes that Wedlake Bell wanted for the space and that the expectations of existing and future employees were met.

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DAVID HYMERS
HEAD OF IT
AT WEDLAKE BELL

Robust Wi-Fi throughout

Stridon recommended cloud-managed Cisco Meraki, for its ease of use and management - allowing Wi-Fi to be controlled from any location and device.

Stridon conducted a site survey of the new Wedlake Bell office and built a detailed model of the office floors to simulate radio coverage. This determined the best locations to place network access points to ensure complete coverage of the office environment, even in the event of equipment failure.

Not only was Wi-Fi coverage and reliability essential, Stridon had to ensure that the physical hardware was placed in accordance with the design aspirations of the space. Stridon worked with the architects throughout the project to ensure that the technology infrastructure would be as unobtrusive as possible.

"Stridon's cloud-managed wireless solution was nothing short of transformational for us. Wi-Fi coverage had been a major issue in our last office and to realise our ambition of an agile, mobile and collaborative workplace full coverage was critical. Typical of Stridon's fastidious approach, a lot of work went into finding the right technology fit to meet the requirements for a Wi-Fi system that could support a growing team in flexible locations".

Protecting company and client data with a bullet-proof business continuity and disaster recovery plan

Critical data and applications are protected and replicated across their own and Stridon's data centres to ensure high availability and resilience.

Should a man-made or natural disaster occur Stridon will ensure that Wedlake Bells' business can continue almost uninterrupted – with data protected. Crucially, the solution in place is reactive, with tools that are actively monitoring IT systems and their recoverability at any given time.

> *"We can't take the chance that our systems become unavailable, or our data unprotected. Disaster recovery and backup plans are essential and form part of our overall security strategy"*, added David.

Strategic IT partnership

> *"Stridon have become our IT strategy partner, who we rely on to support the ongoing management of our network. Together we achieved the change in workplace culture we had hoped for; using technology to become more collaborative with each other and our clients, as well as the processes in place to ensure that our business infrastructure and data is resilient and protected"*, said David.

LET'S TALK

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