

Web Based Application Hosting on NHSnet

Introduction

Users within NHS organisations generally gain access to data on locally provided and maintained servers within their own organisation.

This can be an expensive and resource intensive activity and increasingly organisations are investigating the options of having their web based applications hosted at remote locations by Third Party Hosting organisations.

Projects and organisations that have a requirement for web application hosting should be aware that the organisations with which they are dealing may require an NHSnet connection.

In the case of organisations that do not presently have an NHSnet connection or that have not been approved to offer web hosting services generally to the community, project managers should factor an additional period of between 3 to 6 months into their project plan to allow for the Third Party Connection approval process and the connection installation itself.

Projects and organisations should also be aware that there are existing approved web application hosting services within NHSnet that are available to Third Party and NHS organisations which have already absorbed the connection timeframe and for which an agreed approval mechanism exists.

Scope

This document covers hosting organisations that have been approved by the NHSnet Security Board to offer hosting services generally on the NHSnet.

It does not deal with Third Party hosting organisations that have been approved or connected as part of a specific project or local initiative. These are approved for connection under an explicit set of criteria and are regarded as one-off solutions limited to the single organisation and service for which they were approved.

In line with the increasing requirement for web hosting services there are three organisations that have been approved by the NHSnet Security Board to offer hosting services generally on the NHSnet.

British Telecom (BT)
Cable and Wireless (C&W)
IOKO 365 - <http://www.carelink.co.uk>

IOKO 365 hosts material for its business customers and operates under a Change Control Notification mechanism to the NHS Information Authority – Security Board the rest of this document deals with the process that has been agreed with the NHSnet strategic WAN suppliers BT and C&W.

Web Based Application Hosting on NHSnet

a. BT – Secure Application Block

BT Contact(s) Peter Green peter.j.green@bt.com or Mark Dellar mark.dellar@bt.com

b. C&W – Internet Solutions Centre

www.cw.com/uk/nhs follow **Contact Us** link to Account Manager details for geographical areas.

BT/CWC connection approval process

The process is described as follows:

- a. A letter of sponsorship from the NHS Sponsor must be posted to the NHS Information Authority - Third Party Security Manager.
- b. Information about the Application/Service to be provided on the BT/C&W hosting service should be emailed to the NHS Information Authority - Third Party Security Manager giving details as follows:
 - Applicants
 - Application/Service Name
 - Description
 - Protocols used
 - Benefits
 - Maintainers
 - Where the application is to be offered on a restricted basis to Internet located site, details about the registration process for participating organisations.
 - Sponsors

Interim approval is granted by the NHS Information Authority – Third Party Security Manager and confirmed at the next meeting of the NHSnet Security Board.

The following link gives a submission template to assist the requesting organisation [PDF](#) format, [RTF](#) format

Caldicott/DPA Issues

Approval for the application by the NHS Information Authority – Third Party Security Manager and the NHS Information Authority – Security Board is in relation to the infrastructure security issues only, in that, the proposed infrastructure does not represent a significant threat to NHSnet.

Responsibilities for the Data Security issues remain with the organisation posting the data on to the host site, and the organisations permitted to have access to it.

In addition individual(s)/organisation(s) participating in the proposed system that has access to data should ensure that their responsibilities under the Data Protection Act are complied with.

NHS organisation must have Caldicott Guardian approval for the proposal and data flows where Patient Identifiable Information may be exposed.

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