

A background image showing a woman from behind, carrying a large white plastic water container on her head. She is wearing a white sleeveless top. The setting appears to be an outdoor area with a concrete wall and some vegetation.

Providing remote aid operations with improved access to information



Christian Aid

Country: UK, Ireland and Worldwide

Industry: Global Aid Agency

Profile: Running aid operations in over 60 countries.

Key drivers: To distribute decision making information more effectively to field operatives.

Christian Aid helps poor communities around the world build a better future through developments such as effective water treatment, health and community programmes. It is an agency of the churches of the UK and Ireland and works in over 60 of the world's poorest countries.

Christian Aid empowers people to find solutions to problems, supporting local organizations which understand local needs. The agency provides help on the ground through 16 overseas offices and strives to end poverty through campaigns to change the rules that keep people poor.

Improving remote user access to SharePoint

Christian Aid's operatives work in some of the most remote parts of the world, with severe challenges in maintaining access to operational information.

Christian Aid has deployed Microsoft SharePoint to decentralize decision making from London HQ into the field. SharePoint provides a platform to put information at operatives fingertips wherever they are in the world.

Christian Aid has deployed Infonic's Geo-Replicator software to deliver the SharePoint portal to remote operatives more effectively in limited bandwidth conditions. Geo-Replicator's unique software enables operatives to access the SharePoint portal whenever they have low bandwidth, and even when they are completely disconnected.

The software enables colleagues to work as if they were in the same building - even if they have poor connectivity and are thousands of miles apart. It helps the charity be more agile and responsive to local needs enabling it to deliver more effective development work worldwide.

Once Christian Aid knew what they wanted to achieve with SharePoint, Infonic Geo-Replicator was the obvious system for improving access for remote operatives. "SharePoint and Infonic give us the chance to decentralise and deliver better results to the people who need our help across the developing world." comments Steve Buckley at Christian Aid.



“The technology is great for our people in local offices. If rainfall brings a satellite dish down, staff can work offline until the connection is restored”

Benefits of Geo-Replicator

- Faster access to SharePoint in remote areas.
- Access to more up-to-date SharePoint content.
- Users can take SharePoint off-line on their laptops.
- Dramatic reduction in the cost of data transmission.
- Improved access to decision making information.
- Improved organisational agility and responsiveness.

“The project has been rolled out to travelling staff and local staff based in Kenya, Honduras, Tajikistan and will be extended to other local teams working in over 60 of the world’s poorest countries.” says Steve Buckley, Christian Aid.

The Infonic Geo-Replicator solution

Geo-Replicator remote access enhancements for SharePoint give users in low and no bandwidth environments faster access to SharePoint 24/7.

Infonic’s patented compression and synchronization technology accelerates access to SharePoint. Replication of content between servers provides LAN speed access to information anywhere in the world.

Geo-Replicator’s “Offline Networking” gives laptop workers 100% access to portal content 24/7, even when they’re not connected to the network. There’s full offline search, 2-way updating and enforcement of access rights to preserve security.

Geo-Replicator dramatically reduces satellite data costs and is the perfect solution for organisations with remote or mobile locations.

Infonic’s software enables Christian Aid’s operatives to work effectively in remote areas of Africa with intermittent or slow internet access. It updates the SharePoint portal on their offline laptops, improving collaboration between colleagues. Infonic helps makes Christian Aid more agile and responsive to local needs.

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