

## Douglas Stevens

CHARTERED SURVEYORS

### Key Facts

- Formed in 1985 as a niche retail practise
- Based in London, England, UK
- Specialist retail knowledge across the UK for high streets, shopping centres, retail parks and food stores



### The Client

Douglas Stevens, now in its 35th year having been formed in 1985 as a niche retail practice. Initially servicing principally retailers the practice has grown to encompass investment, development and asset management for institutional and property company clients in addition to a range of agency and professional services for landlords and tenants. Douglas Stevens & Co has stayed true to its origins – putting the client first – advisors rather than brokers. Based in London the company has specialist retail knowledge across the UK for high streets, shopping centres, retail parks, shops, large stores and food stores.

### The Challenge

Douglas Stevens had a Small Business Server that had reached its end of life. The challenge facing them was the ever growing need to be able to work remotely whilst out of the office, with little to no interruptions as if they were in the office. Including the remote working, an old infrastructure reduces the overall collaboration efficiency. With the cloud, you have access to a large selection of streamlined applications catered to provide your business with a productivity boost.

Aside from the unlimited storage space options available, lower cost rates and maximum-security levels, the cloud offers an immaculately fast deployment and scalability.

Cloud services can be deployed in a matter of days due to the advanced virtual infrastructures. With the software/backup updates completed by the vendor a lot more frequently than on-site, it allows for a more secure and protected environment.

### The Solution

As specialists in the cloud and all things Microsoft, we were asked to provide Douglas Stevens with a seamless cloud experience, with a security refresh. Office 365 was the ideal solution.

Moving to the cloud allows users to work from anywhere, at home, on the go or in a completely different country, including a variety of other features and benefits such as collaboration, efficiency and improved productivity.

Including the mail server, our team also migrated the in-house file server to a Cloud File Sharing service.

With cybersecurity playing a key part in the success of any business, we added Two-Factor Authentication for an additional layer of security in the cloud. 2FA protects the accounts and data by using a one-time code sent directly to the account holder as a second 'password' to allow access to the information.

All staff members are able to access company data seamlessly from laptops or smart phones without any complicated VPNs (Virtual Private Networks) and the IT Support levels required are completely minimal.