



## How did Cowell Clarke future-proof access to its commercially vital data?

Ensuring continuity in a world where the CBD's power supply isn't bullet-proof



Like many professional businesses in Adelaide's CBD, Cowell Clarke Commercial Lawyers historically maintained its data management facilities in-house, thinking that this would be a cost-effective, low-risk solution to its needs.

This assumption was questioned through a series of outages which challenged Cowell Clarke's confidence that their city centre location meant they would be immune to problems in the CBD.

It was a realisation that prompted the firm to secure a more sustainable data hosting solution through YourDC.

## About Cowell Clarke Commercial Lawyers

Cowell Clarke is one of the fastest growing law firms in Australia, delivering advice to clients nationally and overseas.

With over 100 employees based at offices in Adelaide and Sydney, Cowell Clarke's legal teams use innovative digital platforms to meet and service clients remotely. Data is therefore a critical asset to the firm's operation and its success.

### Disrupted operations, jeopardised relationships

Like many Adelaide CBD-located businesses, Cowell Clarke's in-house data management strategy was based on an assumption that a reliable power supply was a given.

This expectation was challenged by a significant electricity supply blackout when a local grid transformer failed. The lengthy event caused the uninterruptible power supply to run out, forcing the firm to halt its operations.

A later incident led to a failure of the building's air conditioning system that Cowell Clarke's server room relied on. This triggered server room temperatures to rise, further disrupting business.

A planned office relocation prompted Cowell Clarke to take its data management security to a new level.

### Seamless transition, robust solution

Working closely with the client, YourDC designed Cowell Clarke's data centre solution and migrated the law firm's data servers to its Adelaide-based state-of-the-art hosting facilities. A seamless transition allowed continuous access to client-critical data, and now ensures that a robust solution to a key operational risk is in place for the firm.

Cowell Clarke has also cut its operating costs for the provision of its data management. YourDC has secured significantly lower power charges than are available to businesses hosting in-house.

#### THE CHALLENGE

##### In-house data server room an unacceptable risk

- UPS failure
- Air conditioning failures
- Local grid transformer failure
- Expensive to upgrade, time-consuming maintenance

#### THE SOLUTION

##### Robust, reliable and future-proofed data access

- Transferred data management to state-of-the-art Rated 3 facility
- Powered by two sub stations on diverse paths
- Integrated generation to deliver continuous back-up electricity supply

#### THE BENEFITS

##### Business interruption risk mitigated – 100% uptime guaranteed

- Enhanced cost effectiveness
- Access to YourDC's vast ecosystem of carriers and providers
- Onramps to public cloud including AWS and Azure
- Reduces reliance on building owners and facilities management providers
- Ongoing support and advice from YourDC experts

"We'd thought that our CBD location made us bullet proof – but we were wrong. We ran an analysis of building our own server room on site with the required power, UPS, cooling, fire suppression and maintenance on all of those elements and it was not cost effective. Once we'd made the decision to move YourDC's support was exceptional. We're now able to focus on delivering an amazing experience to our clients, confident in the knowledge that YourDC's service underpins our business-critical data capabilities"

Steven Oest  
Cowell Clarke



- Protecting your business-critical data
- Safeguarding your expensive IT hardware
- Hosted in state-of-the-art, purpose-built facilities
- Ensuring you have 100% control over your assets

For more information on how YourDC can protect and benefit your business call (08) 8427 7000 or visit [YourDC.com.au](http://YourDC.com.au)

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