



CASE STUDY / SUCCESS STORY

FLOFORM Ltd.

Case Study Floform Ltd.

Client: Floform Ltd. www.floform.co.uk

Location: Welshpool, Powys, UK

Business type: Manufacturing plant for metal components

Network infrastructure: LAN networks based on fiber and copper cabling

Type of project: Data and telephony cabling management.

Information kindly provided by: Ian Stockbridge, in-house Network Engineer



The Client

Floform are a world leading cold-former of copper, nickel and aluminum alloys as well as steel, making components for a wide range of blue chip customers in the automotive and semiconductor industries. Floform has been cold forming metals into complex shapes at its UK factory since 1959.

Cabling Structure

Floform underwent a major upgrade of its cabling and infrastructure which required a complete dismantle of the main communications racks to replace redundant telephony equipment with a new PABX, upgrading the switches to Gigabit hardware with fiber links to the server room and bringing structure to the distribution cabinets' cabling on the separate floors.

The Challenge

Floform wanted to maximize reliability and functionality of a new Manufacturing Resource Planning system. The cabling and infrastructure upgrade carried out as a part of this project exposed the insufficient level of infrastructure documentation from the previously adopted hands-on approach, and was an opportunity to get the documentation up to date, including additional information about telephones, extensions, analogue lines, serial devices, faxes, multifunction devices and network printers. It was essential for the cabling work to be completed during a single planned shut-down weekend.

The Lead Up

Having first attempted spreadsheet and simple database methods as the basis of

the audit, Floform's in-house Network Engineer Ian Stockbridge was looking for a solution that would enable clear visualization of the data.

During a market scan, PatchManager stood out as the most complete solution and was also available at a price that represented the best value.

Ian took advantage of PatchManager's free trial offer and used it during this project – truly putting it through its paces!

The Approach

Audited data was transferred into PatchManager via the powerful CSV import function. Ian manually created examples of the kind of data he was trying to import and then exported these to create sample template files for the imports



The Results

The cabling project was successfully completed during the shut-down weekend.

Having achieved a clean and fully documented cabling infrastructure, PatchManager will become the core application for all physical data and telephony cabling changes. Work orders will be used to manage moves, adds and changes in a controlled manner.

Ian Stockbridge, in-house Network Engineer:

“The project was a total success. PatchManager turned a daunting task into a controlled series of events. The tool is simple to use and intelligent, and it is not often you can use those two words in the same sentence.

When I was tired, I went from live patching to work orders with clear print outs - a real life saver in remote cabinets up a ladder! While manually creating everything is possible, I simply did not have time. The import process was simple, letting you know if there were any issues with your data. It would have taken an age to do what I did in minutes.

The level of support from the people at PatchManager is unbelievably good. From answering simple ‘How do I...’ type questions to the more complex ‘I’ve got an Alcatel Optiplex with the following modules...can you send me the custom templates?’ I have previously worked in network customer support roles for 10 years. These guys rock!”

> **Visualization**

PatchManager provided visualization of the network that simple database solutions or Visio couldn’t, facilitating a pain-free upgrade.

> **Best value for money**

PatchManager provided the best cost-value product compared to others discovered through a market scan.

> **Most complete solution**

PatchManager provided the most complete cable management product compared to others discovered through a market scan.

> **Fast, accurate data import**

PatchManager’s import feature allowed quick and simple migration of current data. PatchManager also validated the data to ensure consistency.

> **Excellent usability**

PatchManager’s intelligence proved to be uncompromised by its simplicity in use that enables new users to quickly master its functions.

> **On-going organisation**

With well documented data in its system, PatchManager facilitates the use of work orders to ensure future changes will be properly managed and controlled.

> **Universal application**

PatchManager was used for both data and telephony cabling.

> **Support**

PatchManager provided excellent after-sales service and customer care.

Find out for yourself how PatchManager can ease your network management by requesting a trial version through our website <http://patchmanager.com>



PatchManager.com

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