

<http://greenitdepartment.computing.co.uk/computing/news/2243577/uk-sme-lack-investment-hamper>

## The Green IT Department

In association with



Home of Green IT

Green IT News

Green IT Broadcast Events

The VMware Zone

Green IT Peer to Peer Debate

### SMEs' lack of IT investment could prolong the downturn

IT marginalisation by UK small businesses is harming their ability to weather the recession, says research

Dave Bailey, Computing, 05 Jun 2009



UK SMEs lack of IT investment could hamper ability to ride recession

Nearly a quarter of UK small businesses say that a lack of IT investment brought about by the recession is making them less competitive and is hampering their ability to survive the downturn, according to research.

The study by consultancy Ardent Solutions suggest that small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are being hit by a variety of serious IT-related issues due to their budget

### The VMware Zone



Energy Efficiency Incentives for Server Consolidation with VMware Virtualization



White paper: Virtualization Overview



Virtualization: The Best Initiative for Alleviating the Power Crisis in the Data Center



TCO Calculator  
"It's not whether or not you™ will save money - it's a matter of when." - Start today with the TCO Calculator

### Green IT Broadcast Events

Q&A: Green computing (part one)

Our experts answer your questions

<http://greenitdepartment.computing.co.uk/computing/news/2243577/uk-sme-lack-investment-hamper>

limitations.

Problems include deterioration in system reliability or increased downtime (41 per cent), increased maintenance costs for legacy systems (25 per cent), more IT security problems (16 per cent), and having to run unsupported applications (23 per cent).

One of the indicators of the lack of IT planning is shown by the fact that only 65 per cent of companies employing more than 250 people, and 31 per cent employing less than 250 people, have a dedicated senior IT role. The rest rely on part-timers overseeing by a director-level executives such as the managing director, financial director or operations director.

Just under a fifth of those polled (19 per cent) had made no substantial investment in IT for two to three years, while just under 60 per cent of firms employing fewer than 250 people have a robust disaster recovery plan, leading to poor backup processes for hardware and software failure.

But nearly a quarter (24 per cent) of companies polled said they recognised the advantages of the software-as-a-service (SaaS) model enough to seriously evaluate switching to using this approach within the next 12-18 months.

"SMEs cannot afford to be left behind," said Ardent managing director Andrew Watkinson.

"Many have already made a move towards leveraging external IT expertise for support, maintenance, outsourcing and advice. Making the move to SaaS is the logical next step: in addition to the cost arguments, this model provides organisations with guaranteed access to the latest technologies and up to date expertise."

The Ardent *SME Business Technology Report* surveyed 250 decision makers in UK SMEs in April across a representative cross-section of business sectors, including manufacturing, pharmaceutical & medical products, private healthcare, financial services, energy and environment, and wholesale & retail distribution.



Q&A: Green computing (part two)

Our experts answer your questions



## businessGreen blog

### Latest entries

It's all gone to sh...

Tuesday, 02 June 2009

I never thought I'd end up writing about sewage for a living, but increasingly that is what appears to be happening....

Ostracising the oil giants is not the answer

Wednesday, 27 May 2009

When does compromise become appeasement? One is at the heart of all good negotiation, the other is so loaded with historical allusions...

> More from the Business Green blog ...

ADVERTISEMENT

<http://greenitdepartment.computing.co.uk/computing/news/2243577/uk-sme-lack-investment-hamper>

---

---

ADVERTISEMENT

Useful links: [About us](#) . [Privacy policy](#) . [Terms & conditions](#) . [Site map](#) . [Bookmark this site](#) . [Advertise](#)

Categories: [Business](#) . [Business hardware](#) . [Business software](#) . [Communications](#) . [Employment & Skills](#) . [Public sector](#) . [Security](#) . [More...](#)

Business Technology websites:

[BusinessGreen](#) Business green news, resources, blog, podcasts  
[Computing Business](#) technology news, ecommerce, government, security, business podcasting  
[Computing Business Agenda](#) Setters, Leadership, Boardroom, Best Practice, webinars  
[CRN Channel](#) news, distributor directory, business hardware reviews

[The Inquirer Technology](#), chips, memory, graphics, servers, hardware reviews  
[vnunet.com](#) Technology news, Silicon Valley Sleuth, blogs, forums, podcast, downloads

Jobs & Recruitment websites:

[Accountancy Age Jobs](#) Accountant jobs, jobs in finance, audit jobs, cima jobs, acca jobs, corporate finance jobs, management accounting jobs, finance director jobs, finance recruitment agency directory, Top 50 accountancy firms, accountant salary survey  
[Computing Careers](#) IT jobs, Programmer jobs, Developer jobs, IT manager jobs, Project manager jobs, SAP jobs, Oracle Jobs, Java Jobs, IT recruitment agency directory, Top IT Employers in the UK 2007  
[Inquirer Jobs](#) Software Engineer Jobs, firmware developer jobs, electronics engineer jobs

<http://greenitdepartment.computing.co.uk/computing/news/2243577/uk-sme-lack-investment-hamper>

---

Other titles in the Incisive Media network:

Business & Finance websites: Accountancy Age . Best Practice . Financial Director . Management Consultancy

Consumer Technology websites: Active Home . Computeractive . Gizmodo . PC Magazine . PCW . WebActive . What PC?

© Incisive Media Ltd. 2009

Incisive Media Limited, Haymarket House, 28-29 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4RX, is a company registered in England and Wales with company registration number 04038503