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## BCG Systems Helps Leadership Akron Fulfill Their Mission with the Cloud

### CHALLENGE

Nonprofit leadership group faces the need to reduce ongoing costs to maintain IT systems and improve their ability to share information with staff and membership.

### SOLUTION

Microsoft Online Services – a powerful cloud solution that encompasses Exchange Online, SharePoint Online and Office Communications Online.

### RESULTS

BCG is able to make an IT conversion manageable and beneficial while simultaneously reducing costs and increasing efficiencies.

The early 1980's brought inspiration and direction to a community that needed new leaders to rise up. Paul Poorman, Editor of the Beacon Journal, civic activist, Barbara Hiney, David Lieberth, Akron's Deputy Mayor of Administration, and other leaders spearheaded a movement that refused to leave the important selection and training of leaders to chance. And so Leadership Akron was born. This vision created one of the first programs of its kind, a program to bring leaders together from diverse backgrounds, positions and interests to interact and creatively solve problems. Through the years the torch has been passed down and today the mission of the organization is carried forward by four staffers who work hand-in-hand with hundreds of alumni, trustees, and other leaders.

Many of Akron's CEOs, educators, judges, entrepreneurs, public officials, nonprofit leaders and other professionals are graduates of the program. Leadership Akron graduates hold key volunteer leadership roles throughout the community. Through its network of graduates, Leadership Akron has been an instrument of positive change through many diverse and far-reaching initiatives.

### The Challenge of an IT Conversion

Since its inception, Leadership Akron has relied upon the broad support of the community to provide the means for participants to further expand their knowledge about the community and to develop leadership skills. Tuition fees provide only a portion of the revenue required to operate the program. The program is financed through the support of Corporate and Foundation Partners, as such, Mark Scheffler, Executive Director, runs the program on a tight budget. Looking for a way to reduce cost and improve capabilities, Scheffler sought out to find a technology solution to fit their mission and work.

The process of finding the right solution for their non-profit was challenging. Many options were in front of the organization. Scheffler looked to BCG Systems for resources and expertise to make the endeavor much simpler. BCG team members helped sift through all the options and figure out what mattered to the Leadership Akron organization.



"BCG provided excellent advice to us from the beginning of the planning process, then walked us through a surprisingly smooth conversion, and continues to provide outstanding technology support for our organization. Whenever questions arise, BCG makes it a priority to help us find a solution."

Mark Scheffler  
Executive Director, Leadership Akron

## About BCG Systems

BCG Systems is a single-source provider of business management software, hardware, and infrastructure planning. Nationally recognized for providing exceptional information management solutions and service, BCG Systems designs, implements and supports cost effective ERP, CRM, and networking systems – in addition to custom applications and Web development. BCG Systems' certified professionals combine experience, commitment and ingenuity to maximize the return on each client's technology investment.

### The Cloud Enables Important Mission

Why was the Cloud a good solution? Working with the team at Leadership Akron, BCG Systems walked through their operational needs to ensure the right technology would be selected to fulfill their mission. Two important requirements had to be met. First and foremost, the solution had to be easy to use. Secondly, the solution must lower cost for the organization. The decision was made to use Microsoft Online Services, a solution that encompasses Exchange Online, SharePoint Online, and Office Communications Online.

### BCG Systems Serves As Advocate

Moving to the Cloud was a viable and cost effective solution that made sense for the needs of Leadership Akron. Mark Scheffler recalls the process of the conversion, "BCG worked as our advocate with Microsoft when we encountered a roadblock in transferring some information. BCG also made themselves available to assure we understood the situation, enabling us to make intelligent decisions as we navigated through any issues that surfaced."

### Strong Results Inspire Nonprofit Success

Both BCG Systems and Leadership Akron couldn't be more pleased with the results of the project. "We are very happy with the decision to work with BCG for our technology solutions," says Scheffler. "Because of the combination of industry knowledge and customer service, BCG was able to make an IT conversion manageable and beneficial for our organization. As a result, we have simultaneously reduced costs and become more efficient."

With the help of BCG Systems, Leadership Akron has technology solutions that fit their mission and work perfectly.