

Co-operative Web

Co-operative Web is a worker co-operative consisting of 21 software developers; specialising in providing bespoke software and services for both public and private sector clients; including Cadbury, Simple, and numerous councils and primary care trusts.

Co-operative Web was formed after the four founders decided to go it alone following a management buy-out at the company where they were previously employed. Located in Longbridge, Birmingham, the co-operative members are proud of their co-operative ethics, and hope it means something to their clients also; promoting their status on their website.

Managing Director of Co-operative Web, Ed Russell, shares the benefits of the co-operative business, "Because of the way worker co-operatives are designed, everybody who works here owns a piece of the company, so no matter who out of our ever-growing ranks people deal with, they can be assured of talking to someone who cares about meeting our promises, cares about building relationships, and cares that our clients get the best possible result from working with us."

"After spending our earlier careers with traditional software houses, we decided that there was a better way to be as a company, we make it our business to look after our clients, both public and private, in every way we can, uphold our ethics and be open and honest at all times. We have dedicated teams, able to cope with the demands of supporting our clients' mission critical applications, building cutting edge applications, crafting a pretty website or just constructing an HTML email and doing it all the way it should be done"

Ed added "Our public sector clients particularly like the fact that we are a co-operative business with a very good CSR policy and, despite all the recent cuts, we are getting a lot of new business coming through, which is fantastic."

When asked what advice he would give to others starting a co-operative, Ed said: "People need to remember that a co-operative is still a business and a commercial organisation, and you have to have a good business model in order to survive financially.

"For anyone looking to set up a co-operative, I would recommend speaking to your local co-operative development organisation in terms of business support and the experts at Co-operatives UK for additional advice help and support."

Source: <http://www.uk.coop/casestudies/co-operative-web>

