Solutions House

Specialists in roaming user IT solutions

A lesson in Wireless

Moat Community College - Leicester

In order to stand a chance of competing in the current jobs market, today's students have to be fully conversant with ICT before they leave full time education. As a result, modern schools and colleges increasingly find themselves trying to make what can be quite meagre budgets stretch far enough to cover the cost of expensive computing hardware and software. Unfortunately, budgetary obstacles aren't all that must be overcome on the road to a truly effective school ICT network. In many cases, the physical constraints thrown up by dated architecture and overcrowded classrooms can create even tougher problems for those trying to successfully integrate ICT and education. This was certainly the case for the Moat Community College in Leicester.

"a truly flexible learning environment"

As may be expected of a forward-thinking, specialist science institute, Moat Community College realised early on that Wireless LAN was the only way to achieve a truly flexible learning environment. Unlike traditional IT infrastructures, which dictate exactly where students can and cannot work, WLAN enabled computing resources to become much more mobile and, therefore, flexible. The wireless system that Moat Community College installed initially worked very well, but problems were soon encountered because there simply wasn't enough bandwidth to cope with the number of laptops that students and staff were using. A new solution was needed that could be quickly implemented, was simple to manage, and that would offer highperformance coverage and capacity throughout the deployment area. Meeting all these demands would be a tall order, but Moat Community College knew exactly where to turn for help.

"high performance coverage and capacity"

> "The system is great now we can log on an entire class of 32 tablet computers without a problem and in very short period of time."
>
> *Vice Principal*
> *Head of ICT*
> *and Teacher of Science*

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Blanket Wireless

Flexible Cabling

Multi User AV Installations

Roaming Data Access

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Solutions House had already established an excellent relationship with the college following a number of successful projects undertaken on their behalf. These included the design, supply, installation and support of CAT5e and Fibre network cabling solutions, and the provision of various hardware and software products such as laptops, printers, workstations and servers. We were also responsible for both the supply and installation of interactive smartboard and projector display units for the college's classrooms – an innovation that helped to revolutionise the way lessons were delivered.

"wirelessly connecting 18 - 30 laptops in one room"

Having proven our ability to efficiently deliver targeted solutions and outstanding aftersales support, Solutions House was the natural choice when it came to tackling the college's WLAN issues. Working closely with the client, we quickly identified Extricom's award-winning Interference-Free™ WLAN system as the perfect solution to their problems. Capable of wirelessly connecting 18 - 30 laptops in one room, while providing stable and guaranteed performance, seamless mobility, high capacity and blanket coverage completely free of co-channel interference, the system answered every technical aspect of the brief.

"easily manageable for the average IT administrator"

Extricom's Interference-Free™ WLAN also meant that Capita SIMS (a management information system designed specifically for schools) could be delivered wirelessly, and also allowed the use of laptops in Virtual Learning Environments. And because the whole solution is easily manageable for the average IT administrator, requires little RF experience, and carries no hidden charges, it also worked out to be extremely cost-effective too. In order to ensure that installation of the Extricom wireless solution went as smoothly as possible, we put together a detailed implementation plan incorporating a thorough schedule of work that covered any changes required to the network infrastructure, CAT5e and Fibre cabling. We also set out guaranteed costings and a list of all parts required.

As a result of this thorough preparation, the project was completed without a hitch and to the complete satisfaction of the client, who now has a reliable, guaranteed level of wireless service that does everything asked of it without the need for constant tweaking. Indeed, the college has been so impressed with the product and our service that they have already committed to buying more equipment from us in the future.

"The Extricom solution has provided an ideal answer to wireless networking across the site, unbelievably improving the wireless coverage from our existing domestic access points. The system was implemented and it has been simple to add additional APs where and when required. There is no longer any need for complex cell planning and site surveying"

Network Manager

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