



**Solutions House**  
Specialists in roaming user IT solutions

*Solutions House  
comes top  
of the class*

## *Upton High School - Cheshire*

In the space of a generation, schooling has changed beyond all recognition. For today's students the computer is an essential educational tool, enabling them to research topics online, produce typed essays and gain familiarity with software that will prove invaluable in their working lives. However, achieving a technology-led learning environment that consistently works without a hitch is notoriously difficult to achieve - especially when computing resources have to be mobile. This was exactly the problem facing Upton High School in the early part of 2008.

*"a permanent  
installation that would  
work anywhere"*

Upton High School desperately needed a wireless system that not only covered the whole site, but that also permitted users to move from location to location within the school without loss of connection. The cell-based units that they had been using were totally unreliable, and a permanent installation that would work anywhere in the school was urgently required. Turning to their local county council for advice on

where best to find a solution, Upton High School was immediately pointed in the direction of the Extricom WLAN system.

*"stable, guaranteed  
performance, total mobility"*

Enjoying a solid reputation for delivering reliable IT solutions in educational settings, Solutions House is one of just a few companies in the country that supplies and fits Extricom's award-winning Interference-Free™ WLAN system. With a proven ability to wirelessly connect anywhere from 18 - 30 laptops in one room, the high capacity system also provides stable, guaranteed performance, total mobility and blanket coverage with absolutely no co-channel interference. Furthermore, Extricom's Interference-Free™ WLAN would also allow laptops to be used in Virtual Learning Environments, and it even permitted the wireless delivery of Capita SIMS - a management information system designed specifically for schools. Another crucially important factor in the system's favour was its ease of use. Requiring hardly any RF experience, the whole solution is easily manageable for the average IT administrator.



Solutions House were quick to come and sort out the problems we had during initial setup and have kept in touch regularly to see how the project is going

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*"the perfect solution  
to Upton High  
School's problems"*

In short, Extricom's Interference-Free™ WLAN offered the perfect solution to Upton High School's problems, but to prove the point - and to allay any doubts that the school's budget managers may have had - we visited the site to give a full demonstration of the system and its capabilities. Having seen firsthand what it could do, Upton High School agreed to test the scheme in their Science Department, with a possible future roll out across the school to follow.

*"completed on time,  
to budget and with no hitches"*

A round of in-depth meetings followed, during which Solutions House was able to pin down exactly what Upton High School's specific requirements were. Once this was done, we put together a detailed implementation plan to ensure that the whole project would be completed on time, to budget and with no hitches. The plan included everything from guaranteed costings and a list of all parts required, to a thorough schedule of work covering any

changes that might be required to the network infrastructure, CAT5e and Fibre cabling. As a result of this careful planning, Upton High School's Science Department now has four access points, installed on a 12 port switch with two extra points for testing. The testing itself has gone very well, with all laptops working extremely well in any of the school's 13 science labs. Indeed, calls from the Science Department in relation to laptops not connecting to the network are down from two or three per lesson before Solutions House's intervention, to just two connection failures in the eight weeks since the project was completed.

*"quick to sort out the  
problems during setup"*

According to Ian Clegg, Network Manager at Upton High School; "Solutions House were quick to come and sort out the problems we had during initial setup and have kept in touch regularly to see how the project is going." As a result, he is keen for Solutions House to roll out the system to the rest of the school as soon as funding is confirmed.



There has been a great reduction in calls from the Science Department in relation to laptops not connecting to the network

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*Blanket Wireless*



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*Roaming Data Access*