



Omni 'Transforms' The Maplesden Noakes School the Maplesden Network

Maplesden School

Maplesden Noakes School is situated in a pleasant residential area, close to Maidstone town centre. A co-educational school for 11 to 18 year olds, Maplesden has around 1,000 students and is regularly over subscribed.

Technology a Priority

A declared main aim of the school is to develop the use of technologies in all subject areas. The IT network, managed by Richard Townsend is a key part of delivering that.

The Maplesden Network

Maplesden has a Microsoft based network with 9 physical (20+ virtual) servers, over 850 laptops and 400 desktop PCs. The network runs both Curriculum and Administration functions, securely separated for authorised users.

Focus on Laptops

The high use of laptops is part of the school's commitment to increase flexibility for users. However the increasing number of students and teachers using their own laptops means the technical team spends more time maintaining them, often with software installation and security issues.

Secure Remote Access Sought

Whilst great for mobility within the school, where users are safely connected to the network, only a few remote users could be hosted. Richard wanted fast and secure remote access for all users, with single sign-on, not the dual boot home/school arrangement they had before.

Introducing Design & Management Systems (DMS)

Richard had known Jim Prendergast of DMS for some years, whilst both were in previous employment. More recently, Jim had provided technical help on various issues. Jim's advice on Richard's ambitions for the network was to consider the DMS Omni solution. This would provide the remote access Richard wanted, with high level PKI security certification (as used by the Ministry of Defence).

A Compact Solution

The Omni solution proposed by Jim provided all the power and storage Richard needed to run the school's curriculum and administration networks. The compact nature of Omni also allowed a reorganisation of the server room at Maplesden with a considerable space saving.

Applications on Demand

In addition to providing the totally secure remote access that Maplesden wanted for data and programmes, Omni offered something more, by making the school's software applications available from the network on demand as users opened their chosen files.

Transforming the Service

Richard could see this was an opportunity for Maplesden to make a sea change and transform the service the IT team delivered. *"With Omni, we don't need to set up laptops any more, people can use their own, or any remote PC with a simple broadband connection. It makes life much less complicated for the users and easier to manage for me, leaving my team free to develop the network."*

"The Application on Demand feature is transparent to the user" said Francis Garner, Assistant Head Teacher *"I log into DMS Omni from home, on a broadband connection just in range of my local exchange, and files open instantly"*.

Smooth installation

The interface on the Omni server is designed to assist a smooth set up. *"It was a dream to install"* said Richard *"the on-screen guide was simple to follow and made the whole process, straightforward."*

