



DMS NetFlow provides a simpler way for Hockerill to manage its network.

Hockerill Anglo-European College in Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire offers a distinctive high quality education with a strong international dimension to students from the United Kingdom, EU member countries and beyond. The school offers a full range of subjects to GCSE and is the UK's only maintained boarding school offering the prestigious International Baccalaureate Diploma.

An Infrastructure for Education

Hockerill College prides itself on offering a first class environment for education. Henry Magnelli, Hockerill's IT Director, is responsible for providing the IT infrastructure for curriculum delivery and school administration which helps to facilitate this environment.

Group and User Management

A key part of this IT infrastructure is a user friendly management system which sits on top of Microsoft's powerful yet complicated Active Directory. It allows Henry and his team to manipulate the organisational groups and permissions of students, classrooms, printers and applications with ease.

Legacy System Limited

The team members at Hockerill were pleased with the management system before DMS NetFlow. In fact it was responsible for them developing a taste for what was possible from an "open" management system that manipulated the Active Directory, but didn't prevent access to it.

Introducing DMS NetFlow

When DMS NetFlow was shown to Henry he was impressed. "NetFlow had features that were lacking in our previous system - and unlikely to be developed for it" said Henry. "For example, it allows control of Internet Explorer campus-wide. DMS is listening to schools and developing NetFlow to facilitate management control of search engines which are used increasingly by students, such as Firefox and Google Chrome."

DMS NetFlow 9 vs 1 Active Directory

DMS NetFlow doesn't prevent technicians accessing Active Directory, but makes it less necessary because of the large number of areas that it covers. It is popular with Network Managers because, says Henry "With DMS NetFlow we only need to access Active Directory occasionally. 90% of everything goes through NetFlow."

DMS NetFlow Keeps it Simple!

Colin Reed, one of the technicians at Hockerill loves the simplicity of NetFlow "It feels very similar to a Windows application and is intuitive to use. We can reset accounts and re populate group structures and permissions easily. Setting up and copying desktops for different areas of the college is simple too. One of my favourite things about DMS NetFlow is how easy it is to set up printers. You can see everything on the system, exactly what is in each area, so assigning groups or individuals to printers is easy."

Smooth Technical Support

DMS NetFlow is a straightforward install. For Hockerill it took an engineer just one day to perform the complete installation. Henry was pleased with this as it meant almost no disruption to the working day. Henry likes the updates too "We get an email with the patch and drop it into NetFlow and the software knows exactly what to do with it; it is painless, a real treat."

Enabling Teachers

Enabling teachers to manage their areas takes no time at all. A change to permissions (for example giving the teacher the right to add a printer to a profile) is a click away in DMS NetFlow.

Always Clean

Another innovative feature of DMS NetFlow is Scan and Repair."NetFlow alerts us to anomalies; broken links, permission conflicts and the like and presents us with a 'click to repair' option," says Colin."It keeps the system clean and prevents errors and conflicts building up which could bring the network to a halt if left unchecked."

No More ID Pranks!

Resetting passwords is no longer a hassle for Hockerill. "We get three a week" says Colin "and they are now dealt with in minutes. Plus, the photo feature in NetFlow means students can't play pranks by "borrowing" on another's ID any more!"

Secure for the Future

"A key issue for me is knowing our management system is live and ongoing, with a commitment to development as education network requirements change. The DMS NetFlow programmers talk to us and other schools. I am confident they understand the needs of network managers and are developing DMS NetFlow to meet them".
Henry Magnelli, IT Director, Hockerill College.