

Case Study Rougemont School

Leading independent school selects CachePilot for eLearning delivery and content filtering.

Rougemont School, one of the prestigious HMC (Headmasters' Conference) rated independent schools, has installed CachePilot together with a 1meg satellite connection.

Equinet reseller Networking Systems has reconfigured the school's network and routed all student-facing computers through CachePilot, giving total control over Internet access.

Rougemont's teaching staff take full advantage of CachePilot's pre-caching capabilities, enabling them to prepare lessons in advance and deliver them without delay.



Case Study

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A Newport-based independent school seen as one of the premier establishments of its type in Britain has installed the CachePilot smart caching and content delivery device from Equinet to control pupils' Internet access and enable eLearning in the classroom.

Rougemont School, one of the prestigious HMC (Headmasters' Conference) rated independent schools, has 170 computers on site in three major whiteboard suites and several smaller computer suites. Each child has his/her own email address and has regular access to computers.

CachePilot has been installed by Cardiff-based Equinet reseller Networking Systems in conjunction with a 1 meg satellite connection from Aramiska. According to bursar David Pettit, this has dramatically speeded up the school's Internet performance.

"It's important that teachers and pupils have very quick access to some very meaty pages, particularly when they're working on interactive whiteboards. If, for example, they're doing a project on volcanoes, they can easily pool up video footage of Mount Etna. It brings everything to life for the pupils."

Optimising the network

Founded in the early 1920s, Rougemont School is an all-age independent catering for pupils from 3-18 on two sites. There are currently 170 pupils on the roster.

Originally, Rougemont's computer network was set up by an IT-literate parent but the school quickly outgrew this approach and appointed Networking Systems to handle the growing IT needs. Martyn Lamb from Networking Systems now spends three days a week at the school, providing IT backup and advice.

When Martyn first came to Rougemont, the school's server was multi-homed with three Ethernet interfaces – one for the curriculum network, one of the admin network and one with a connection to the router for Internet access. All machines were being routed through the server and using Win Proxy. Martyn simplified the process by removing the router interface on the server, installing a CachePilot for the curriculum network and pointing all student-facing computers to it.

"This means all the pupils' machines go through the CachePilot, which makes the filtering extremely important and gives us a high level of access control. It has made me extremely unpopular with the kids but that's great as far as I'm concerned, as it shows we're doing our job properly!"

As for the teachers at Rougemont, they've discovered the wonders of CachePilot's ability to 'pre-cache' Internet-based material - to populate the device with curriculum-based material prior to lessons and run the pages from the CachePilot during class, avoiding frustrating delays in accessing the content.

CachePilot explained

Designed precisely to meet the needs of schools, as defined by the Department for Education & Skills and BECTa, CachePilot is an all-in-one smart content delivery solution that is robust enough to handle any eLearning package, no matter the size, content provider or available bandwidth. It can store, update and deliver both static and dynamic content locally, enabling simultaneous access by multiple PCs.

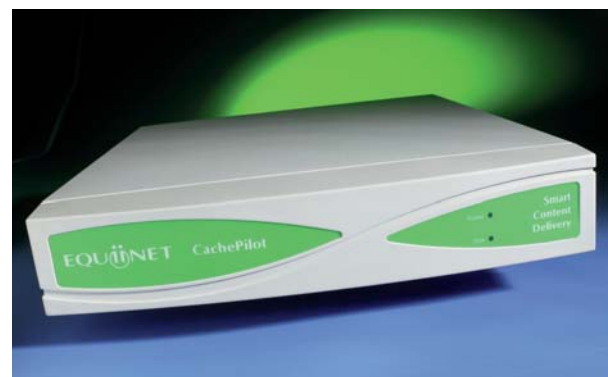
"eLearning packages put an enormous strain on data networks and it is vital that delivery methods keep pace," says Mike Taylor, Equinet's director of eLearning. "Traditional caching solutions just aren't up to the job."

CachePilot uses a variety of clever techniques to ensure all steps are taken to avoid wasting valuable bandwidth, slowing down networks or compromising network security. It also boasts a structured data store for easy retrieval of information, comprehensive management statistics and logs, and web serving functionality. It can also act as a secure router to the Internet and as a content filter.

www.cachepilot.com
www.rsch.co.uk



"Broadband is available in this area but we felt the satellite link would give us faster upload and download," says David Pettit. "At the same time, the Welsh office is giving funding for satellite projects.



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