

# Westbridge PRU completes move to Windows Server environment and new network infrastructure

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## Westbridge Pupil Referral Unit

*“Westbridge Unit caters for the needs of young people up to the age of 14-16 years. This would generally be on a 'full-time' basis providing up to 25 hours per week which may include a college/work experience placement. Young people are referred to a Pupil Referral Unit by people such as Educational Psychologists or Educational Welfare Officers. The Area Admissions Panel will decide if this provision is appropriate for a young person. The Pupil Referral Unit will then prioritise placement through their own Admissions Panel held each term.”*

### Situation

When Total Solution were first introduced to Westbridge Unit by Andrew Cullum of Hillside Primary School, the school's network was run via Linux based Cachepilot appliances storing pupil's work and the workstations ran the proprietary SLAMNet logon interface. The support for this configuration was virtually non-existent to the point staff dreaded calling in the event of an issue. Additionally, none of the pupil's work was secured via a backup system.

Secondly, their cabling system and network infrastructure was entirely unsuitable for the environment it was being used in. The existing data cabinets were situated in vulnerable areas of the school such as the pool room where it would get vandalised or switched off frequently. Also their office setup was run from an ageing 8 port network hub, daisy-chained from the main cabinets.

### Solution

To combat the issues, Total Solution have installed a new Fujitsu Primergy TX200 server with a Intel Xeon Quad-Core processor, 4GB RAM and 2x 250GB hard drives and loaded with Windows Server 2003 R2 Standard all via discounted educational pricing. This new server stores all of the student's work, ensures that users have their own username and password and secures the client computers from tampering via Microsoft Group Policy. All users and client computers are set up in exactly the same way ensuring a consistent environment so that users become familiar with the network. All of the configuration was done under the guidance of Microsoft best practices and so will be able to supported not only by Total Solution but by any Microsoft engineer.

Unlike the network storage solution used previously, the server is protected by an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) that will protect against power surges, high and low voltages, brownouts and

will shut down the server safely after a period of time running on battery in the event of complete power loss.

Total Solution installed an Ultrium LTO2 tape backup device along with Symantec Backup Exec 12.5 for Windows Servers and 5 tape cartridges. This solution allows 5 independent restore points of both the server's configuration as well as all of the user's data. The backup tapes are stored in a fire proof safe to ensure that all data is recoverable in the event of a disaster. The backup solution is regularly tested during a monthly site visit by restoring a selection of data from tape.

Total Solution decided that the best course of action for the school's cabling and network infrastructure was to unify their two existing cabinet locations into one central distribution point. The new cabinet location is in the store room away from any interference by pupils. The school was fitted with a total of 48 Category 5e new network points distributed around the building all running back to the new cabinet and terminated to two new 24 port patch panels.

Within the new cabinet we decided to install 2 new Linksys 24 port switches which allow all network points throughout the school to be used at any time. The two switches are linked together via their 1Gbps ports, ensuring that there are no bottlenecks in the network.

Westbridge Unit have taken on a support contract that entitles them to a 4 hour response time for any issues relating to the server and 8 hour (next business day) response for client issues.

### *Benefits*

The staff and pupils can now feel confident that their data is secure and always available to them through any computer on the network and will be met with an interface they are familiar with every time they log in.

Actual teaching lesson time has increased through the consistent environment that all users have, so that they can log in and get to where they need to be much faster than before.

The server is a fantastic industry standard platform that can serve many more applications and services, including the school's SIMS.net database which the school will look at migrating onto the server at some stage.

Staff now feel confident that any problem will be logged on Total Solution's helpdesk system and will be responded to as soon as possible and well within the contracted time allowance.

### *For more information*

For more information about Total Solution products and services, please call the Total Solution sales team on 0800 2985085.

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