
CASE STUDY: EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

A School Uses Fat Pipe WARP to Create a Reliable and Flexible Connection to the Outside World

A School in Calne Wiltshire is a private school that has 280 pupils. The campus also includes a preparatory school and a leisure centre. There are a total of 350 users on the network which has 100mb to the desktop and a large amount of wireless users. The challenges that the IT department faces are to create more efficient usage of the available bandwidth and create a solution that is better able to cope with surges in demand.

SOLUTION OVERVIEW

SITUATION

The school runs programs for students, parents and staff over the Internet. It required increased bandwidth and a higher level of reliability using its existing lines.

SOLUTION

The school aggregated the dissimilar lines through a FatPipe WARP networking appliance, utilizing the combined speed of the connections while achieving a high level of WAN redundancy.

BENEFITS

Using a FatPipe Warp the school can be confident that the network is more able to cope with additional workload and benefits from increased availability. It is also a solution that is fully upgradeable in the future.

All of the pupils have access to the network and the internet 24/7 and there is external access to the school's secure Intranet for pupils, teachers and parents to ensure that coursework is completed and parents and teachers can check on the progress of the pupils. The surges in demand can often come in the evenings as well as during the day when various allowable websites are accessed which creates additional strain on the available resources.

The current connections comprise of 3 x 8Mb ADSL connections which are separate connections so are not load balanced or offer any redundancy should a line fail. The total available bandwidth is around 20Mb and while this is adequate for the immediate requirement it does not offer the load balancing or redundancy that is sought by the IT department. Adding a proposed supplemental leased line would add extra bandwidth to the network but would not resolve the main issues of what to do in the event of a line failure and how to make the most of the total available bandwidth.

The addition of a Fat Pipe Warp solution enables the school to eliminate expensive and inconvenient downtime by introducing automatic failover which automatically reroutes traffic to the available lines in the event of a failure. The device also enables the school to load balance all of the available connections and create a more available network that is better able to cope with increases in overall demand at any time of the day.

The solution also makes it easy for the school to add further connections such as more ADSL lines or leased lines without the need for major changes to the infrastructure. The "set it and forget it" nature of the FatPipe solution means that the focus of attention for the IT department can shift away from connections and onto more important strategic issues.