



Trent College doubles pupils' IT use with innovative wireless technology from Khipu Networks and Alcatel-Lucent

Trent College pupils' use of its IT facilities has doubled since the deployment of an Alcatel-Lucent wired and wireless local area network (WLAN). At the end of the first school year with the network in use, Trent College has also reported that IT support for laptops has been reduced by approximately 90 percent thanks to the introduction of network access control (NAC) technology from Bradford Networks.

The wireless network based on Alcatel-Lucent's OmniAccess WLAN technology has been rolled out across 15 school buildings and supports 500 computers, with more than 230 student devices now registered to use the network, an increase of more than 100 percent on the previous year. On an average day between 80-120 students connect via mobile devices, including laptops from a variety of different approved manufacturers, as well as iPod Touch and iPhone devices.

Network registration is quick and straightforward, while Trent provides an additional support website to give further advice. Web portals also give students and staff remote access to the network drives and email from any computer in the world, improving their ability to share knowledge and collaborate outside of school hours.

Khipu, which has more than 20 independent school customers, has also overhauled the College's fixed network infrastructure using Alcatel-Lucent's OmniSwitch technology, to give

Trent's boarding students physical LAN connections within their rooms.

"We've seen growing demand for laptop connectivity from students from age 14 onwards, as well as for those with special needs requirements - however, this is the first year that we've been able to provide truly comprehensive internet access," said Matt Harris, IT manager at Trent College. "Previously, students would only use laptops when there was a specific lesson requirement to do so. Following Khipu's network overhaul, we now have consistent internet usage, with students able to securely use networked devices to access information wherever and whenever they require, making the classroom much more interactive."

While Trent has always looked to provide students with internet access, its previous system of connecting 'recommended' laptops up to the school domain was prohibitive, as not all students could afford the recommended device. Furthermore, Trent was unable to deploy access policies on the students' machines, which meant in many cases they received more network administration rights than the staff.

Trent investigated the possibility of a laptop rental scheme, however this was not economically viable. Instead the College examined ways to rollout internet usage to any device, without compromising network security.

Trent was impressed by Khipu's expertise and ability to tailor its offering to meet the College's exact requirements, while Khipu's support team has also integrated closely with Trent's IT department, providing ongoing consultancy since the completion of the rollout.

"With the continued increase in IT literacy and the resultant rise in student expectations, a number of forward-thinking schools such as Trent have taken steps to deploy infrastructures that encourage maximum use of online resources," said Matt Ashman, commercial consultant at Khipu Networks. "With its new network, Trent has a foundation on which to further improve its IT facilities and enable its students, helping them to translate the College's investment into greater academic achievement."

"Many aspects of the University learning model are now filtering through to secondary and further education," said David Parker, vice president for Alcatel-Lucent's enterprise activities, UK & Ireland. "Whether its students accessing the internet on their iPhones, or business workers requiring instant network access via PDAs, the key to becoming a more dynamic enterprise is to help people complete tasks and share information more quickly and securely in real time on the devices of their choice."

Trent in collaboration with Khipu aims to increase the range of supported devices to encourage more pupils to register and make use of the constantly extending IT facilities.

About Trent College

Trent College is a happy and flourishing co-educational, independent day and boarding school. There are around 800 pupils in the Senior School and over 300 pupils in our Junior School, The Elms. Our campus is located in beautiful grounds conveniently situated on the border of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. Founded in 1866, Trent is a school with a rich heritage and traditions spanning 140 years. Though we value our unique and distinguished past, we have our eyes firmly set on the demands being made on young people in the 21st century and a spirit of energy, creativity and innovation shapes our school life.

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KHIPU NETWORKS

About Khipu Networks

Khipu Networks is a UK-based advanced systems integrator, focusing on supplying innovative secure compliant infrastructure solutions across the public and private sector. The company is a leading adopter of new and best-in-breed technology - expert technical staff ensure that customers get the solutions they need, when they want them and how they need them. The ethos is to ensure that the customer has the edge on the security and compliance of their network and not the attacker. Hampshire based Khipu Networks Ltd is the security division of the White Clarke Group of companies. Khipu Networks is an Alcatel-Lucent Direct Partner and the exclusive reseller of Bradford Campus Manager in the UK and Ireland. <http://www.khipu-networks.com>

About Alcatel-Lucent

Alcatel-Lucent (Euronext Paris and NYSE: ALU) provides solutions that enable service providers, enterprises and governments worldwide, to deliver voice, data and video communication services to end-users. As a leader in fixed, mobile and converged broadband networking, IP technologies, applications, and services, Alcatel-Lucent offers the end-to-end solutions that enable compelling communications services for people at home, at work and on the move. With 79,000 employees and operations in more than 130 countries, Alcatel-Lucent is a local partner with global reach. The company has the most experienced global services team in the industry, and one of the largest research, technology and innovation organisations in the telecommunications industry. Alcatel-Lucent achieved proforma combined revenues of Euro 18.6 billion in 2005, and is incorporated in France, with executive offices located in Paris. [All figures exclude impact of activities to be transferred to Thales]. For more information, visit Alcatel-Lucent on the Internet: <http://www.alcatel-lucent.com>

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