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Connecting across the County

using WiFi Shared Services

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The govroam Project

Flexible WiFi access across Kent's Public Services

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In partnership with the Kent Public Service Network (KPSN) and KHIPU Networks Limited

Project Background

Requirements for mobile working are continually increasing and the ability to access information from 'anywhere' over WiFi is now an everyday expectation. Providing such a solution that requires minimal user intervention and that is cost effective has been traditionally difficult to achieve without reducing the required level of security needed to access corporate information.

Having experienced these challenges himself, Jeff Wallbank, Head of the KPSN Partnership at Kent County Council, initiated a pilot project 'PSNRoam' to enable corporate services to be accessible from any KPSN-connected site over WiFi. At the same time, he introduced a platform that could be used across the UK by other public sector organisations.

"We needed an affordable offering that could scale to support any number of sites and not be limited to specific WiFi technologies. An "all-in-one" solution that could be installed, supported and managed by a single point of contact; enabling a simple roll-out across all public sector sites within Kent and a blueprint platform capable of expansion.

Our end goal was to facilitate a complete shared service environment across the UK".

Jeff Wallbank – Head of the KPSN Partnership

Key Pilot Deliverables

A single WiFi network
To set-up a single WiFi network, called PSNRoam, across two organisations (a Borough Council and a Blue Light organisation) so that their users could access "home corporate services" securely from each other's sites.

Create centralised secure authentication
To create a WiFi service that could support 'any' WiFi technology and that could centrally authenticate all KPSN-sites.

Seamless connectivity
To enable a user's device to connect to the WiFi service and access the internet without any complexity.

Support for multiple WiFi services
To create a solution capable of supporting additional WiFi services including public WiFi access and the education sector roaming service "eduroam" to create a complete 'shared service' environment.

A WiFi service for 'any' organisation
To advertise the WiFi service from non-council organisations such as:

- Hospitals
- Universities
- Colleges

To provide a scalable platform for any public sector organisation who would like to use the service.

govroam Today

For the purpose of the pilot deployment, the single WiFi network was called PSNRoam. The pilot was successfully completed in September 2015 and the deployed WiFi service met all of the deliverables, enabling a blueprint solution to be expanded across Kent and a platform which could be used by other UK public sector organisations. Following a decision by the key stakeholders, the service was renamed govroam. The govroam WiFi service is being rolled out by Kent Connects partners and KHIPU Networks to sites across Kent including those owned or occupied by Ashford Borough Council, Blue Light organisations, Canterbury City Council, Dover District Council, East Kent Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (EKHUFT), Gravesham Borough Council, Kent County Council, Maidstone Borough Council, South East Commissioning Support Unit (SECSU), Swale Borough Council, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Thanet District Council and Tunbridge Wells Borough Council. The next phase of the project will be to provide access to local 'home' services from remote locations via the govroam service.

Kent County Council

govroam and eduroam WiFi services across 200+ sites. Central govroam platform for Kent.

Ashford Borough Council

govroam and public WiFi services across 2 sites

East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust

govroam WiFi services across 5 hospitals (planned for Q4)

govroam - The Benefits

Where available the govroam WiFi service will allow a public sector organisation to connect to the internet seamlessly.

There are huge benefits of using the govroam WiFi shared service to improve efficiencies and cost savings including:

Increasing the productivity of mobile workers by enabling them to connect effectively from any public sector building.

Allowing co-location of staff thus maximising the flexibility of the public estate across the UK.

Reducing costs through less reliance on 3G and 4G "dongles".

Improving disaster recovery and business continuity operations by allowing staff to easily relocate to alternative sites and have access to their online systems.

Facilitating health/social care interaction by facilitating connectivity at NHS sites.

Improving professional development and training by enabling connectivity at University, College and School sites (including joint advertising of eduroam and govroam).

"Working with Kent County Council and KHIPU Networks, Ashford Borough Council were the first site within Kent to pilot govroam and after successful testing, we now have a county-wide solution to enable our users to connect to their resources anywhere within Kent where the govroam WiFi service is available."

Robin Jones
Ashford Borough Council

Wish to connect to govroam?

To get govroam connected, there are two options available.

Purchasing a govroam "all-in-one" managed service solution. This includes the required hardware and installation which is fully supported and managed. The supplied solution can also provide guest access and Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) on-boarding provisioning services.

Configuring your own RADIUS platform, supported by your organisation.

Contact KHIPU Networks

If you are interested to learning more about the govroam solution and how to get connected, please contact KHIPU Networks:

- lmayon.Pragadish@khipu-networks.com
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- 0345 2720900

About KPSN - The Kent Public Service Network (KPSN) is a broadband ICT network developed by a partnership of public sector agencies. Built to the highest standards, this integrated network has been designed to meet the growing demands for better access to services, on-line service delivery and multi-agency shared services. www.kpsn.net

About Kent Connects - Established since 2000, Kent Connects is an innovative IT partnership of 17 public sector partners in Kent. www.kentconnects.gov.uk

About KHIPU Networks Limited - KHIPU Networks is a leading provider of Next-Generation Wi-Fi and Cyber Security solutions within the public sector. We developed a shared service platform to enable WiFi networks including govroam and eduroam (JISC partnership) to be accessible from any location. By Appointment to Her Majesty the Queen - Network Security Provider www.khipu-networks.com