

PIONEER

SEVENOAKS INTRODUCES A FRESH NEW APPROACH TO SENIOR SCHOOLING

SEVENOAKS IS A SENIOR SECONDARY COLLEGE OF 450 STUDENTS IN SOUTHEAST PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

The College provides for all students and, wherever possible, integrates Vocational Education and Training and Structured Workplace Learning into all students' programs.

Sevenoaks' vision is to be a state and national leader in senior secondary education through the use of the latest information technology and a very different learning environment. As a result, the college has a pioneering approach to education, using all the advantages of technology to give students a range of choices about when and where they fulfil their learning.



THE CHALLENGE

IN 2002, SEVENOAKS SET OUT TO BE A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR TECHNOLOGY IN THEIR REGION. THEY HAD THE ADVANTAGE OF BEING A BRAND NEW SCHOOL, WHICH GAVE THEM A CLEAN SLATE AND ALLOWED THEM TO CHOOSE THE BEST PRACTICE TECHNOLOGY FOR THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES.

David Wood, Principal, Sevenoaks Secondary College, explains: "At Sevenoaks we wanted to have a comprehensive, integrated network that provided total flexibility so students and teachers could use any computer anywhere in the college; have wireless access and home access.

"At the same time security of personal student records and college administration was a key issue, so we needed to have appropriate firewalls and other security systems that allowed different users to have different levels of access. Finally, we needed the solution to be very reliable, to be accessible, scalable and most importantly, cost-effective."

THIS IS THE POWER OF THE NETWORK. now.



THE SOLUTION

DAVID PORTER ACCOUNT MANAGER, CISCO SYSTEMS, WAS ABLE TO ASSIST SEVENOAKS IN ACHIEVING THEIR GOALS

"We recommended the convergence of their voice and data requirements onto one Cisco Architecture for Voice Video and Integrated Data (AVVID) network. This created immediate cost benefits to Sevenoaks with only one network being installed and maintained.

"Through a PIX firewall to the Internet, Cisco routers and Ethernet switches, and a comprehensive wireless coverage, Sevenoaks was able to connect 200 desktop computers and any number of laptops to their online learning program, as well as providing off campus access via the Net."



THE RESULTS

CISCO IP TELEPHONY CREATED ENORMOUS FLEXIBILITY WITH THE ABILITY TO PLUG THE TELEPHONE INTO ANY DATA CONNECTION AND RELOCATE AT ANY TIME WITHOUT HAVING TO REPROGRAM A PABX.

The Cisco IP telephones have features such as large LCD displays, caller IDs and registering missed and received calls. In addition they can be programmed by users from their home page for a range of functions which includes: speed dial services and the Cisco Unity voicemail.

Calls can even be received on a laptop computer from anywhere on the premises.

David Porter Account Manager, Cisco Systems, reflects: "In terms of the bigger picture, the Cisco IP telephony solution has the potential for dramatic cost savings. By installing a unified voice and data network throughout an organisation, phone calls within the school's infrastructure become free and data communication optimised. This creates additional savings in terms of productivity and efficiency."

The power of Cisco AVVID is the virtualisation of the PABX over IP. No longer tied to a physical PABX, AVVID applications create immense opportunities in terms of flexibility, mobility and cost savings.

David Wood, Principal, comments: "Students can access their courses from almost anywhere – either the dedicated learning suites or other areas from within the school, from their work placement or from home.

"They are allocated their own organising space on the college network, which they access through the homepage. They submit assignments, receive feedback from their teachers and take part in electronic forums and discussion groups.

"The Cisco Sevenoaks partnership has led to the introduction of IT training programs as part of the curriculum. Sevenoaks is now an Accredited Cisco Networking Academy.

"THE CISCO AVVID SOLUTION HAS PUT US AT THE FOREFRONT OF EDUCATION WORLDWIDE. SEVENOAKS CONSIDERS ITSELF AS PART OF THE INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION COMMUNITY ACCESSING ONLINE RESOURCE FROM ALL AROUND THE WORLD AND ESTABLISHING COLLABORATIVE SITES."
DAVID WOOD, PRINCIPAL, SEVENOAKS SECONDARY COLLEGE

"With the assistance of Cisco AVVID technology, Sevenoaks is showcasing a new way of learning. Teachers act more as facilitators and guides rather than directors of learning and students are far more engaged and empowered by the education process."



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