

CASE STUDY

Redstone Managed Solutions Working in Education

The Client

Southampton is the principal city in central Southern England. With 86 primary, secondary and special schools in the area, the Council has a school population of around 29,000 pupils between the ages of 3 - 19 years.

Southampton City Council has identified Information Technology as a key focus for schools in the area, in terms of skills, connectivity and content. Consequently, digital literacy is now a priority alongside literacy, numeracy and emotional literacy.

“Redstone was selected as the company demonstrated its adaptability and flexibility in working within the technical framework that had already been established in the City.”

The schools in Southampton had traditionally used ISDN lines to gain access to the Internet. However, the ISDN lines were struggling to cope with the level of activity required, which was resulting in poor performance and an adverse impact on the teaching environment.

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*Karen Mitchell,
ICT Strategy and Development Manager
for Education and Leisure Services,
Southampton City Council*

The Challenge

Information Technology was identified by Southampton City Council as a key focus for schools in the area in terms of skills, connectivity and content. This focus, coupled with the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) directive to ensure that all primary schools were connected to the Internet at a minimum of 2Mbps and all secondary schools connected at 8Mbps by 2006, resulted in Southampton City Council contracting Redstone Managed Solutions to upgrade the Internet connections of all schools in the area from ISDN lines to Broadband.

Redstone was selected from a shortlist of suppliers following a tender process completed by the South East Grid of Learning (SEGfL). Karen Mitchell, ICT Strategy and Development Manager for Education and Leisure Services, Southampton City Council explains:

Key Benefits

- Nearly 30,000 pupils will have continual access to the Internet in school.
- Bandwidth provision has quadrupled.
- All schools are connected to each other and linked to the SEGfL Interconnect which will enable inter-site communication and include the utilisation of video conferencing and multi-media sharing.
- Broadband Internet access truly promotes independent learning, whilst generating an on-line exchange of information.



The Redstone Solution

Southampton City Council has a core network based within the civic centre which acts as the heart of the network, the schools feed back into this creating a typical star topology network.

Tariq Saied Managing Director, Redstone Managed Solutions comments: "The Wide Area Network solution was recommended primarily because it is not only provides much more bandwidth but it is also much more economical than the ISDN solution. This solution provides each school in Southampton with a 10Mb broadband connection, 2Mb more than the Government requires for secondary schools and 8Mb above the Primary school target as well as the facility to easily upgrade to 1Gb if requirements change."

Karen Mitchell, Southampton City Council is very pleased with the positive and proactive relationship the Council and Redstone have established. She explains:

"Redstone Managed Solutions' representatives are always helpful and proactive in bringing potential issues and problems to our attention and dealing with them in a speedy and efficient manner. Constant contact with our Account Manager and, in addition, an assigned Project Manager who has worked each phase of the project has also proven very helpful.

"We are very happy with the service we have received from Redstone. As well as advising and supporting existing technologies, Redstone has been proactive in bringing to our attention new technologies and making us aware of the benefits and relevance of these in our LEA, enabling us to make considerable savings in terms of ongoing revenue costs."

"Redstone Managed Solutions provided Southampton with a solution that is an essential part of the technology mix we now have at our disposal. Thanks to the increased bandwidth, the network will be able to support simultaneous access of digitally rich content which can be integrated into classroom teaching."

***Karen Mitchell,
ICT Strategy and Development Manager
for Education and Leisure Services,
Southampton City Council***

People who innovate

Redstone's success has evolved from our team's specialist understanding of the dynamics of effective communications technology. This success has enabled us to continually invest in the future, ensuring that we are at the forefront of the latest thinking and innovation in established and emerging communication, helping our customers to become more agile, efficient, productive and customer focused.

At Redstone we believe that our commitment to customer satisfaction is driven by everyone within our business and we invest the necessary time and energy into the development of our employees to ensure that they grow with us, are able to fully maximise their potential and are 'people who innovate'.

About Redstone Managed Solutions

Redstone Managed Solutions has over 10 years experience of providing IT Infrastructure and Internet Solutions

Solutions and services include:

- IT Solutions, Managed Services and Outsourcing
- Internet Solutions
- Application and Systems Development
- Managed Hosting and Business Continuity Solutions
- Network Infrastructure Management
- IT and Network Consultancy

Redstone Managed Solutions can manage and support your business networks from enterprise level through to the desktop, with a comprehensive single source service for business. We also provide hosting solutions from our London and Cambridge data centres, with scalable solutions, from a single server to multiple racks. Internet solutions include managed MPLS networks, managed firewall, email filtering, online data backup, global roaming internet access and all forms of connectivity throughout the UK.



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