SHORE SCHOOL GETS BANG-FOR-BUCK WITH ICT AND JUNIPER CORE NETWORK REBUILD

Summary

Company: Shore School

Industry: Education

Business Challenges: Replace end-of-life core network to support digital learning with minimal disruption to school operations

Technology Solution: EX Series Ethernet Switch

Business Results:

- Successfully changed vendors and every switch in the school with no disruption to operations

- Completed a future-proofing of the school's bandwidth needs for the next decade, which included full power-over-Ethernet (PoE) across campus, critical new fiber infrastructure, and a redesigned network topology, all with unrivaled service guarantees and support

- Ensured that the network would be ready to handle digital learning and data-intensive educational applications for the next 10 years

Shore School is an independent Anglican school for boys in Sydney, Australia. Established in 1889, the school has 1,600 students from kindergarten to year 12, both day students and boarders.

Business Challenge

When one of Australia's most respected schools embarked on a project to rebuild its core network, little did they know at the start they would completely change their lead vendor and vastly expand the scope of the project.

But that's exactly what happened with Shore School when it engaged with systems integrator ICT Networks.

The result, according to the ICT manager of Sydney's Shore School, Richard Jones, has been the future-proofing of the school's bandwidth needs for the next decade, full power-over-Ethernet (PoE) across campus, critical new fiber infrastructure, and a redesigned network topology, all with unrivaled service guarantees and support.

An institution priding itself on practical, traditional values, Shore has earned a reputation as one of Australia's leading schools for boys. And it was with this sense of practical purpose that Jones took on one of Shore's largest-ever IT projects.

Jones was adamant that Shore develop a clear and practical understanding of the role technology plays in improving learning. "For instance, acknowledging that a basic level of access is mandatory and working with that simple premise." With tertiary qualifications in IT and extensive hands-on experience both within education and in the corporate world, Jones was able to approach the networking rebuild with a clear vision of the project, what it would cost to complete, and the specific desired outcomes.

Technology Solution

Initially, Jones opted to undertake the project with Shore's incumbent network vendor, but in the process of talking to Sydney-based Juniper integrator, ICT Networks, realized that there was an opportunity to get significantly better value. This translated into a broadening of the project's scope and therefore a better overall outcome for teachers, students, and administrators. "With the better value-for-money being offered by ICT Networks, my inclination was to say let's do the whole thing properly," Jones says.

> **"Network bandwidth won't be an issue for 10 years."**
>
> - Richard Jones,
>   ICT Manager, Shore School

But Jones admits it was a daunting task managing the expanded risk. Not only was there the risk of changing vendors, but also the fact that every switch in the school had to be changed "It was like performing open heart surgery; we had to do a major replacement without disrupting any of the other organs."

Jones scheduled a block of two days during school holidays to get the whole project done without causing any disruption to normal activities. The first task was to get into every switch location on campus to un-patch from the incumbent's core and patch to Juniper's core. Of key concern was ensuring that the new configuration functioned properly.

A key element of the project involved Jones and his team engineering out a number of intermediate fiber patch points, and creating dedicated fibers to the locations with the highest usage. At the same time, PoE was delivered right across campus "We had the situation of having hundreds of computers fighting for a 1-gig pathway to the core."

> "I took great confidence from how rapidly I got responses back from ICT Networks and at no time did I feel that we were dealing with salesmen driven just by money."
>
> - Richard Jones,
>   ICT Manager, Shore School

Business Results

Jones compares the success of the project as the equivalent of future-proofing a new road against future traffic congestion. "Network bandwidth won't be an inhibitor for 10 years." He views this as especially important given today's heavy emphasis on digital learning.

Next Steps

Jones says he was impressed by the complete clarity he received from ICT, in particular the visibility of the pricing model, which he says was presented like a "menu."

"We regarded Juniper as a rock-solid switching company with a telco background." And partnering with ICT Networks turned out to be exactly the right decision, as the systems integrator was always focused beyond simply what Shore asked for.

For More Information

To find out more about Juniper Networks products and solutions, please visit www.juniper.net.

About ICT Networks

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One of only a handful of Elite Juniper partners in Australia, ICT supports the infrastructures of high profile enterprises, from Australia's leading sports broadcaster to one of the top online billing facilitators, while working to help innovative SMBs realize their potential. Learn more at www.ictnetworks.com.au.

About Juniper Networks

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3530017-001-EN Nov 2014   Printed on recycled paper