

Case Study

Successfully embedding ICT into the curriculum with at Engayne Primary School with the Granada Learning ContentCache from Avantis

Background:

Engayne Primary School in Upminster is a three form entry primary school. It opened in January 2001 following the amalgamation of the former Engayne Infant and Junior schools. It caters for 616 boys and girls aged from four to 11 and is much larger than the average primary school, with 30 teachers and 20 teaching assistants.

The ICT facilities are available for use by all pupils, with around 30 to 60 pupils using the 2MB internet connection at any given time. The connection is provided by LGfL and Equinox as a specialist service provider. The school uses a number of online content sources, including the BBC.

Avantis caching and content delivery solutions are designed to accelerate and enhance access to web content and e-learning resources while also enabling the effective delivery, sharing and management of content within schools and local education authorities.

Optimised for high performance and high reliability, Avantis web caching appliances and content delivery management software have been developed specifically to cope with the rigorous demands of the education sector.

The Granada Learning ContentCache™ from Avantis, powered by Microsoft Internet Security and Acceleration (ISA) Server, is a new smart web caching appliance available in Primary School, Secondary School and College editions.

First hand account:

Dave Smith, ICT Consultant for Engayne Primary School was tasked with finding a cost-effective method of accelerating web-based learning and more resources for usage with a digital curriculum. With budgets being as tight as they are, the availability of a wealth of free web-based material is a definite benefit of being online for Engayne Primary.

The availability of a wide range of materials and compatibility with the server was an important consideration for Dave, as well as how often the content was updated and added to. Dave weighed up the available alternatives with great consideration, but the alternatives did not offer the value for money, ease-of-use, and features of ContentCache. **"The alternatives we considered were just too expensive, and certainly didn't offer the build quality and versatility"** commented Dave.

Despite the availability of a speedy internet connection, this doesn't get over the problem that many users will be accessing the same content at the same time. This can mean a less than satisfactory user experience all round, especially for such an eager audience as young students! This is where ContentCache comes into its own.

ContentCache from Avantis and Granada Learning comes with an award winning array of content pre-loaded from Granada Learning and can be used with content



from any content publisher. This means that the content doesn't rely on the speed of an internet connection and is always available. The ContentCache also has two further ways in which it reduces the potential for time lag in expectation for users:

Pre-caching: This when the teacher or administrator chooses to pre-cache the sites that they wish to use for their lessons ahead of time or scheduled when internet usage is low

Dynamic Caching: This is when the first time a web page is accessed it gets cached then making it rapidly available for subsequent users.

Therefore ContentCache solves a number of problems for Engayne Primary, and also opens up ICT for all teachers by allowing them to plan their lessons, through an easy to use interface. All Avantis products are designed with the education sector in mind, ensuring that they are easy to use and work in the way users expect.

ContentCache features also filled other requirements that Dave had at Engayne Primary School Among them was the need to audit web usage and discern whether purchased online content is being accessed and utilised fully, and is therefore worthwhile.

After having the ContentCache installed and training teachers how to use it , Dave was surprised how easy the teachers found it to use and how fast both he and the pupils found internet usage became. **"We have achieved bandwidth saving of 72% - that's excellent!"** commented Dave, **"Plus teachers have taken to using ICT more and more, ContentCache has allowed the school to embed the use ICT into subjects in a simple yet effective way"**

Conclusion:

Dave was impressed with the quality and features of the ContentCache, enthusing **"The ContentCache has been simple to set up and has integrated easily with the network with minimum fuss and trouble. It's been a simple straightforward process, for myself, for the teachers and the pupils."**

Dave was pleased with the ContentCache, how easy it was to set up and use for all parties, and how much it has enriched the learning experience. **"We are more than happy with the decision to buy ContentCache, and would have no hesitation in recommending it. With schools looking to accelerate learning in the classroom and take advantage of available rich interactive resources across the curriculum, ContentCache is an ideal solution, especially with Curriculum Online being available very soon."**

For further information on Avantis, please contact:

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