

Case Study: Microsoft IAG and Swivel Authentication



Customer Profile

Fareham College is a publicly funded institution committed to helping young people progress to full-time jobs, further job-specific training or enter a university program. The College also offers vocational and business classes to adult learners.

Situated in the southeast region of Hampshire, England, around 2000 full-time students and 2500 part-time students contribute to a thriving campus, enriched with its own restaurant, beauty salon, theatre, travel agency, motor vehicle garage, music studio and child care facilities.

Business Needs

Fareham College is witnessing a steady increase in its enrolments — as much as 25 percent in the last four years — as more students and professionals seek to broaden their career options and job opportunities.

With the campus expanding in size and scope, IT administrators want to offer a more flexible computing environment. However, they need to do so without exposing students' or employees' personal data or other proprietary information.

Many of the faculty work part-time, or in the evenings and need to access college applications during off hours. For example, professors routinely send class registers to an online system. Yet if they're teaching in a room without computers, they take attendance manually and send documents to the college from home or another location.

At first, only one or two professors needed this option. But the college is growing and needs a remote access solution that can grow with it.

Study Facts

Customer: Fareham College

Website: www.fareham.ac.uk

Industry: Education

Number of Employees: 400

Challenges:

The College needed to add a flexible, scalable computing environment to allow remote access.

IT administrators needed a solution that met their security and budgetary requirements.

Benefits:

- Increased Efficiency
- Security
- Ease of Administration
- Flexibility
- High Availability



SAPPHIRE





Case Study:

Microsoft IAG and Swivel Authentication

Customer:

Fareham College

"It's no longer enough to keep your computers running safely at their brick and mortar facilities," said IT Services Manager Jim Jackson. "If we had an outbreak of swine flu or other pandemic, students and staff couldn't come to class. We'd be out of business. That's why we need the option of working remotely."

At the beginning of 2009, IT Services Manager Jim Jackson began a business continuity plan for the future. He wanted a best practices solution that could offer secure access to virtually any application from a broad range of devices and locations. And he needed it to be affordable.

Solution

Jackson says that Fareham wanted a gateway that was secure, easy to maintain and wouldn't "make us vulnerable because of lack of understanding."

For expertise, Jackson turned to Sapphire, one of the world's leading Intelligent Application Gateway (IAG) teams and most recently, the Microsoft Infrastructure Security Partner of the Year.

"It's no longer enough to keep your computers running safely at their brick and mortar facilities. If we had an outbreak of swine flu or other pandemic, students and staff couldn't come to class and we'd be out of business — that's just one of the reasons we need the option of working remotely."

Jim Jackson, IT Services Manager, Fareham College



Sapphire's consulting team set up the College with a demo of PortSys' NS-IAG3000 appliance and gave them a proof of concept. They also allowed Fareham's IT department to try out the Secure Application Access Gateway for a month so they could realize its full potential.

The NS-IAG3000 provides secure socket layer (SSL) virtual private network (VPN), a Web application firewall and endpoint security management enabling access control and authorization to a full-range of network applications.

"Sapphire worked tremendously hard with us to get the system to do what we wanted," said Jackson. They were able to demonstrate that PortSys' IAG3000 could enforce granular access policies at the browser level and help ensure endpoint compliance and session security.

"Configuring the endpoint security was vital," said Jackson. "We were able to put some rules in place: for example, we only give full network access to those on a college laptop." With the installation of a virtual private network, Jackson wanted the assurance that people logging on to the system are indeed who they say they are.



Case Study:
Microsoft IAG and
Swivel Authentication

Customer:
Fareham College

“The PortSys IAG3000 integrates nicely with the more affordable Swivel PINsafe authentication solution, which uses a combination of registered PINs and randomly generated security strings. I’m comfortable we have a secure, affordable solution that’s easy to administer,” said Jackson.

In the next few months, Jackson expects to roll out the network to more support staff as well as the student population.

Benefits

Fareham College chose the IAG and Swivel solution for the following benefits:

- **Increased security and granular access** – The appliance allows employees, and eventually students, to log in to the college system — without risking security to the network. It will also limit users connecting from certain devices such as an Internet kiosk, or an unmanaged PC.
- **Freedom and peace of mind** – Fulfils the College’s business continuity planning requirement ensuring that critical functions will be available remotely should there be a closure due to events such as a pandemic outbreak.
- **Flexibility** – As Fareham College modifies its technology, the IAG gateway can add new functionality to applications without disturbing the underlying code.
- **Better time management** – Provides access to the Fareham’s required applications, including the Attendance Grid software, cutting the time that the IT department previously spent on facilitating connections. Also, users now have anytime-anywhere access to all of their required applications.

For More Information

Contact us today on 0845 58 27001 or visit www.sapphire.net to learn more about how we can contribute to the success of your business.