Darrick Wood School Simplifies Move To Windows 7 and Office 2010 with Dell KACE

Dell KACE appliance to fast-track roll-out of new IT environment providing increased flexibility and efficiency

Dell KACE announced that Darrick Wood School, an academy and specialist technology college based in Kent (UK) has selected the Dell KACE K2100 Deployment Appliance to migrate the school's laptops and desktops from Windows XP to Windows 7 and Office 2010. The appliance will also provide more flexible provisioning of ICT services across the school.

With the Dell KACE appliance, Darrick Wood School expects to halve the time it takes to deploy new desktop images to computers used by 1,700 pupils and 300 staff, making it easier and faster for the school's ICT team to provide new applications and customised computing services across its learning environments.

Darrick Wood School selected the Dell KACE appliance for its combination of advanced systems management functionality, value price point, and ease of use. Specialist IT solutions provider, Upgrade Options will work with Darrick Wood School to support the project.

"We were looking for the best deployment solution for our environment and budget. After being introduced to Dell KACE by Upgrade Options, we have been totally amazed by what the K2100 appliance can do. It will allow us to minimise the cost of our migration project but also increase our support capabilities. Plus, as an appliance, it's simple to install and we don't have the additional cost of sourcing and managing a server." said Mike Slater, Network Manager at Darrick Wood School.

In addition to providing support for the school's migration project, the Dell KACE appliance will provide greater flexibility around the ongoing management and provisioning of the school's IT services.   By reducing the time it takes to deploy applications and manage new service requirements, the ICT team will be able to respond faster to individual teaching requirements and more easily adapt classroom-based ICT services. The appliance also gives Darrick Wood School's ICT team the ability to deploy new desktop images from a USB drive. This will provide support for the school's remote users, such as a PE teacher using a laptop on the sports field or where installs over wireless are not a viable option.

"We have ambitious plans for the development of our school, which includes expanded use of ICT in - and out of - the classroom. The Dell KACE appliance will give us the ability to deploy and manage new services in the fastest, most cost-effective manner and provide enhanced support for individual teaching situations," adds Slater.

Seann Gardiner, EMEA regional sales director for Dell KACE, commented: "Organisations looking to make the move to new desktop environments want to be able to make the transition quickly and smoothly so that they can benefit from their investments in the fastest time. With Dell KACE's appliance-based approach this can be achieved in the most affordable way, making it appealing to organisations focused on value driven innovation. By automating many of the processes involved in systems management they can reduce the cost and complexity of changing their ICT environments."

Dell KACE systems management and deployment appliances are designed to offer organisations a simple, cost effective route to achieving better management of their IT resources. They are invaluable for IT managers who are responsible for multiple areas of technology, including tasks such as patching, security, system configuration, service desk support or application deployment. Dell KACE appliances provide the tools that they require to manage their distributed systems, saving them time and their organisation's money.