



LanLicenser 4.0 **LanLicenser**

Case Study

The Borough of Telford & Wrekin LEA



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Like many Local Education Authorities (LEA) in the United Kingdom, the Borough of Telford & Wrekin LEA has specific challenges in providing a reliable IT infrastructure to its schools and colleges. These challenges are driven both by the complexities of class schedules and the diverse nature of their computer users.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) resources are most often made available to pupils and teachers in computer suites, which offer the benefits of an effective learning environment. However, because of the class schedules, the occupancy of these suites is very variable. In some cases hundreds of copies of expensive educational software must be installed on all workstations, even though only a fraction of the PCs are used at any one time. The Borough of Telford & Wrekin education ICT management had repeatedly tried to obtain licensing agreements based on concurrent usage, but software vendors had been reluctant to satisfy such requests without the confidence that the schools would remain within the boundaries of the agreements. There was a clear economic case for being able to enforce license limits. Software metering was the solution.

The Borough of Telford & Wrekin LEA Facts:

- 83 Schools**
- 28,500 Users**

IT Infrastructure:

- 8,000 PCs**
- 64 Servers**
- 120 Applications**

The Borough of Telford & Wrekin issued a request for tender and several metering products were evaluated. As a result of this process LanLicenser was selected for its functionality and scalability. With LanLicenser, the Borough of Telford & Wrekin education ICT management was at last able to prove to software vendors that they could enforce license limits at any time, and produce usage reports demonstrating compliance over time. This was a significant breakthrough and it allowed the Borough of Telford & Wrekin to achieve sizeable savings by negotiating more concurrent usage contracts.

"The savings we achieved on licenses enabled us to pay back the LanLicenser investment in the first year and make a better use of our software budget."

Another challenge was maintaining the integrity of workstation software installations and preventing the use of inappropriate software in computer suites. This is a problem that many firms would find familiar. However, in an educational environment, computer users are far more difficult to discipline than corporate employees! Restricting access to the PCs by locking down the



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operating system is very difficult and requires intensive IT resources, not only in engineering but also in support, as applications that do not follow Microsoft development guidelines closely can behave erratically when the security of the operating system is tightened.

LanLicenser brought a simple solution to this complex problem by turning the problem around. Rather than preventing files from being copied to the hard disks, LanLicenser monitors the process activity on each workstation. If a pupil attempts to run a prohibited application, LanLicenser will instantly kill the process. It doesn't matter whether such applications are started from the hard disk, a floppy disk, a CD or downloaded from an Internet web site: in all cases LanLicenser will intercept the process and prevent the application from running. LanLicenser provides an elegant, reliable and cost-effective solution to the problem of software security in schools.

“LanLicenser was instrumental in enabling us to deliver a secure yet flexible IT infrastructure to our teachers and

Says Tom Greatorex, Broadband Manager: “Telford & Wrekin is one of a number of LEAs having the Pathfinder Status. Under this scheme we are encouraged to look at innovative technology solutions that deliver higher value for ICT money and improve the learning experience. LanLicenser was instrumental in enabling us to deliver a secure yet flexible IT infrastructure to our teachers and students. The savings we achieved on licenses enabled us to pay back the LanLicenser investment in the first year and make a better use of our software budget.”

For more information on LanLicenser and how it could benefit your organization, visit www.abcsystems.com or contact ABC Enterprise Systems at +44 (0)20 7382 4150 or sales@abcsystems.com.

