

Case Study



Dudley Schools protect their data with DESlock+

Summary

The schools of Dudley Metropolitan Borough, with the help of RM Education plc, are now able to conform to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) recommendations that portable, mobile devices and media are encrypted to guard against compromise. By investing in DESlock+, an easily managed encryption product, Dudley's schools can secure all of their mobile data against the threat of lost or stolen information.

In Safe Hands

The Dudley Grid for Learning is a Private Finance Initiative partnership which has provided Dudley schools with a fully managed ICT service since 1999. It encompasses network infrastructure, hardware, educational and curriculum software titles, schools management information systems (MIS), help-desk, training, network and technical support. The Council's private sector partner is RM Education based in Abingdon, Oxfordshire.

RM Education runs a complete managed service for the schools of Dudley Metropolitan Borough. RM develop, manufacture, install and manage hardware, software, IT networks and services and classroom resources all specially designed for education, to help deliver inspiring engaging learning.

Encryption in Education

In its January 2013 briefing for Inspectors document: Inspecting e-safety, Ofsted clearly states that personal data being unsecured and/or leaving the school site without encryption is an indicator of inadequate practice.

In 2012 the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) worked with over 400 schools in nine local authority areas, producing a report setting out the data protection rules and recommended good practice.

The ICO recommends the use of encryption software to protect all portable devices and removable media, such as laptops and USB devices which hold confidential personal information. This is particularly important if they are taken from school premises. It is also important to prevent access to the information in case equipment is stolen. Memory sticks are easily lost, and laptops are attractive to thieves and where thefts or losses occur and encryption software has not been used to protect the data, enforcement action by the ICO will usually follow.

Shirley Hackett, Education Lead Officer from Dudley Grid for Learning, commented:

"For schools, the secure management of sensitive personal data is a big issue and several schools and local authorities have been fined for losing unencrypted laptops and memory sticks. It was important to Dudley schools that we conformed to the recommendations, and were seen to treat our data seriously."

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DESlock⁺ Pro

protect your data

Features & Benefits

▶ About DESlock+

DESlock+ Pro includes full-disk and removable media encryption protect laptop computers against the unexpected. File, folder and email encryption allow fully secure collaboration across complex workgroups and team boundaries, with security policy enforced at all endpoints by the DESlock+ Enterprise Server

▶ Full disk encryption

Fast transparent pre-boot security using FIPS validated 256 bit AES encryption.

▶ USB Drive, CD & DVD encryption

Policy driven removable media encryption using patented key sharing technology. Now includes on-device software for off-system collaboration.

▶ Email encryption

Fast, transparent email encryption for Outlook users. The DESlock+ Blackberry App extends email encryption to handheld devices..

▶ File & folder encryption

Fast transparent encryption for an extra layer of security within the enterprise.

▶ Centralised management

Full control of licencing and software features, security policy and encryption keys.

▶ Assured security

DESlock+ is FIPS 140-2 level 1 validated.



WINNER

Encryption Solution of the Year



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RM is very aware of the issues of protecting data having worked with DESlock+ since early 2008. The aim of this collaboration was to make certain that DESlock+ addresses the needs of teachers and other education staff in a typical environment. Consequently the DESlock+ user experience and feature set have been directly influenced by teaching staff through feedback and consultation with RM.

DESlock+ helps organisations to protect against all types of data breach by offering simple, yet extremely powerful, encryption. It's full disk and removable media encryption protects laptop computers against the unexpected, file, folder and email encryption allow fully secure collaboration across complex workgroups and team boundaries.

Implementation and beyond.

Richard Cornell, Technical Solution Architect and Information Security Officer for RM and responsible for the Dudley Grid for Learning, was responsible for this implementation of DESlock+.

Richard takes up the story:

"RM's managed service operates a central DESlock+ management server with the RM support team managing the installation and configuration of the product including issuing encryption keys and helping users with the product. Both the setup and configuration of the product is very straightforward and was easily installed on RM Community Connect 4 managed desktop and laptop computers, thus allowing all features of DESlock+ to be accessed without the worry of key management and lost password recovery.

The greatest advantage of DESlock+ is its ability to manage users and devices via the internet, independent of network or directory structure. This is vital in situations where all, part, or none of the users and workstations are active directory members. The DESlock+ Enterprise Server allows complete control from nothing more than an internet connection and therefore allows control of data security beyond the schools' CC4 networks.

The support provided by the DESlock+ team is always fantastic and they are always ready to incorporate changes to better support RM. DESlock+ is a very important product in RM's security arsenal, and with the help of this kind of product and support allows us to service our educational clients with high end technology at affordable prices."



in partnership with

Dudley Grid for Learning

www.rm.com/dudley

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council awarded RM Education a ground breaking new 10 year contract for Dudley Grid for Learning, commencing in February 2011 with 108 schools in Dudley (over 98%) participating in the service.

DESlock+ is available from RM Education PLC as part of a joint venture to provide accredited, simple and affordable encryption to Schools. RM expertise and experience means that introducing encryption to your school, college or university is fast and effective, and won't impact real working practice.

[Contact us for more information, help with your data security policy or to arrange a multi-user encryption pilot.](#)



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