

Case Study



Staffordshire schools lock down data with DESlock+

Summary

Staffordshire County Council advises schools to conform to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) guidance to guard against compromise, by recommending the use of DESlock+ for encryption of their data. DESlock+ is commissioned and managed by Staffordshire Learning Technologies (SLT), so schools do not have to perform any management tasks but are reassured that the data is secure.

Secured Servers

Staffordshire Learning Technologies (SLT) is a traded arm of Staffordshire County Council, providing Audio Visual and ICT Services to Staffordshire's Schools, Learning Establishments and Business Units.

An audit of the school systems identified a requirement for schools to protect the sensitive information that was held on the management information system servers. SLT recognised that encryption of the data on a server operating system was not a common requirement but to comply with the ICO recommendations, SLT undertook a review of available products to achieve this aim.

SLT investigated a number of solutions, including drive level hardware encryption and the use of a TPM chip. Hardware encryption was quickly ruled out due to the use of VMware virtual platform being used on the servers. On investigation of the software encryption options, it was quickly established that DESlock+ met all the requirements and SLT started work on implementation of this solution.

Mastering the Management

Andy Arnold, CS Team Leader of System Solutions at Staffordshire Learning Technologies (SLT) was responsible for the extensive evaluation and implementation of DESlock+. Andy details the set up and some of the complexities of the implementation:

"The DESlock Enterprise Server is hosted by SLT. Agents are installed on each new server commissioned and are managed by the SLT central server with client setup and configuration being performed by SLT engineers. The service desk has the ability, following stringent security questioning and telephone callback checks, to provide unlock codes in the event of any users forgetting passwords. This procedure ensures smooth operations without compromising security.

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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.



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Apart from the product functionality, one of the key reasons for choosing DESlock+, is that the local server is synchronised to DESlock's cloud service. This means that in the event of any outage or unforeseen disaster, the cloud service will continue to manage clients and enable swift recovery of the local server. We found this to be a unique feature at the time of investigation.

Another driving feature was that DESlock+ deals with secure client communications across the public network without the need for firewall configuration at our data-centre.

DESlock Ltd also worked closely with ourselves in developing and ensuring the client was compatible with our hardware choice before any purchase was made."

SLT now have an ongoing programme to replace over 300 school servers, and each one will be encrypted using DESlock+.

Made for Mobile

Although SLT initially chose DESlock+ just to meet the audit requirements of the servers, they are now offering an encryption service for mobile devices within the schools. They administer the system for the customer so individual network administrators can concentrate on their daily tasks, safe in the knowledge that identified devices are encrypted and protected, with no additional learning of new software or procedures necessary.

Andy Arnold comments: " SLT hold bi-annual seminars and regularly present sessions to over 200 schools representatives on the importance of data protection for mobile devices and DESlock+ is the tool of choice in Staffordshire.

As a service provider and working to service-level agreements, it is reassuring that we can recommend, procure, commission and support an encryption solution which helps keep continuity across Staffordshire educational establishments, reducing overall costs."

Staffordshire Learning Technologies
Improving learning through the innovative use of technology



Staffordshire Learning Technologies (SLT) provides a full range of consultancy, design, installation, training and support services with the primary aim of delivering high quality, cost effective Information and Communication Technology (ICT) services to learning establishments.

SLT's mission is to become the Information And Communication Technology (ICT) supplier of choice for learning establishments throughout Staffordshire, leading those establishments through the ever developing learning roadmap.

<http://education.staffordshire.gov.uk/SchoolAdministration/slt/>

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



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