

Case Study

Wootton Bassett Library

One of the first libraries in Britain to install 'Learning Access Points' opts for NetPilot's internet access and security system for their email and web browsing solution.

It's all part of an ambitious Government initiative to provide web and email access for every public library in the UK.

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Bringing the Internet to life for local people, Wootton Bassett Library in the heart of Wiltshire is the first in the county – and one of the first in Britain – to establish a Learning Access Point of public-access PCs, each networked with Internet and email facilities. In due course, the other 18 public libraries in Wiltshire will follow suit as funding becomes available, with Chippenham and Salisbury first in line.

In each case, the powers-that-be have opted for an all-in-one-box solution for Internet access, selecting the market-leading internet security appliance from NetPilot. NetPilot units have been rolled out across the county as the product of choice for the County Council.

Chris Wildridge, libraries information manager at Wiltshire County Council, says, "NetPilot was selected as the internet access solution because it combines high speed Internet access with complete security, ease of use and remote management."

Sue Boddington, the county's senior librarian for adult learning, explains, "These learning access points are a community resource, enabling users to learn new skills, access the Internet for free and set up email addresses on hotmail." The public – who can pre-book hour long sessions on the machines – are also able to use word processing, spreadsheet and desktop publishing programmes.

Chris Moore, the Wootton Bassett chief librarian responsible for over-seeing this pilot project, said the NetPilot was providing Internet access and email capabilities for the five PCs in the Learning Access Point.

"It has been very successful so far," he adds. "People seem to think the project is a really good idea and I'm expecting it to be very well used." He said the NetPilot's ability to block unsuitable and illegal sites was a very useful functionality in an application such as this.

Equinix is the European technical leader in internet security appliances – all-in-one-box solutions for bringing Internet access to every LAN-based PC user. NetPilot is a neat and easy way of making the Internet and email cost-effective, accessible and controllable but also provides state-of-the-art firewall facilities to guarantee network security and web 'boundary caching' for fast response and best utilisation of the Internet connection.

In addition, NetPilot controls and monitors web browsing so that users are encouraged to use the resource responsibly. Controls can be established based on time settings (limiting the times when the web can be accessed), whitelists (only allowing certain sites to be visited) and blacklists (blocking specific sites). An audit trail provides an administrator log of the sites that are visited.

Under the 'People's Network' scheme, the British Government has set aside £100m for hardware and £20m for staff training to ensure all the UK's public libraries are networked.

