Daramalan College Turns To Brocade For High-Performance Campus Network

Canberra School Equipped to Meet the Demands of Streaming Media and Pervasive Computing

CANBERRA,Australia May 30,2012 With funding from the Australian Federal Governments Digital EducationRevolution program, more than 911,000 new computers have beeninstalled in schools across the country but this has also put a strain on theexisting network infrastructure. To meet the demand for streaming media andwide-spread use of mobile devices Daramalan College,the largest single-campusindependent secondary school in the Australian Capital Territory,hasreplacedits aging local area network infrastructure with a unified campus networkingsolution based around the new ICX family of switches from Brocade(NASDAQ: BRCD).In the seven years since Daramalans last major LAN upgrade, the demands placedon the college network have evolved considerably. The school now has 720new notebook computers for students in grades 9-11 with another 200 inclassrooms, teachers offices and the library in addition to the 250 existingdesktop PCs and the VoIP phone system. With the burden of supportingmedia-rich traffic flowing to and from these nodes, the existing network hadbecome unstable and unreliable.Our old network, with its stacked core and daisy-chained access switches, wasnever designed to handle what was being asked of it, said Rob Wilson,Daramalan Colleges IT manager. A core upgrade was needed to minimizenetwork-wide downtime and the access switches replaced to provide greaterbandwidth. We needed to make a change and fast.Following a competitive tender, which included the incumbent provider,Brocades technology was selected to provide the college with itsnext-generation campus solution. The project was fulfilled through localsystem integrator, Correct Communications.To alleviate previous network access limitations, Brocade ICX 6610 Switches were deployed withinclassrooms, laboratories, offices and the library. The Brocade ICX 6610 Switchredefines the economics of networking by providing unprecedented levels ofperformance, availability, and flexibility in a cost-effective stackable formfactor. Each ICX 6610 provides 48 Gigabit Ethernet (GbE) ports with four 40-GbEports that can be used to link up to eight units into single logical switchwith chassis-like reliability and performance. The college now has six ICX 6610switch stacks in place, each of which has a pair of fibre-optic GbE connectionsto the network core.For the core, Daramalan was able to take advantage of a 30-day trial programfor an on-site evaluation of Brocade FastIron SX Series switches, whichprovide industry-leading price/performance for campus core and aggregationdeployments, offering scalable, secure, low-latency and fault-tolerant IPservices over 1 and 10 GbE. Specifically, the college deployed theFastIron SX800, which it found to be a solid choice for the network core. Itestimated that the solution would pay for itself in a year by eliminating downtimeand through a reduction in maintenance costs and other overheads.The whole project implementation was very smooth and we have already noticed asignificant improvement. The network now has 30 percent more bandwidth and isoptimized so we enjoy considerably better performance with greater stability,said Wilson.This reliability has enabled students and teachers to, for example, embedvideo streaming into their classroom toolkit, which is something we could nothave dreamed of before. We have entire classes that can download programs totheir notebooks, edit the required footage and produce media themselves in theclassroom. It really is clever, effortless stuff.With the ICX switches now in place Daramalan College is positioned to leverageBrocades new HyperEdge Technology in the future,enabling it to employ single-point management to simplify LAN operations andmix-and-match switches as it expands its access network stacks.About Unified CampusNetworking SolutionsToday's campus networks are expected to deliver services thought impossiblejust a few years ago. Video conferencing, real-time collaboration, distancelearning, patient monitoring, and financial trading are just a few of theapplications that organizations expect to run reliably 247 on wired andwireless campus networks. In such environments, any downtime can provecatastrophic, resulting in significant productivity and financial losses.Brocade campus network infrastructure products offer a comprehensive suite ofend-to-end high-availability capabilities. These features are designed toaddress a broad range of network issues that, if undetected, can result inpotential interruption of network connectivity services.For more information, please visitwww.brocade.com.About BrocadeBrocade (Nasdaq:BRCD) networking solutions help the worlds leadingorganizations transition smoothly to a world where applications and informationreside anywhere. (www.brocade.com.)###Brocade,BrocadeAssurance,theB-wing symbol, DCX, Fabric OS, MLX, SAN Health, VCS, and VDX areregistered trademarks, and AnyIO, Brocade One, CloudPlex, EffortlessNetworking, ICX, NET Health, OpenScript, and The Effortless Network aretrademarks of Brocade Communications Systems,Inc.,in the United States and/orin other countries.Other brands, products, or service names mentioned may betrademarks of their respective owners.2012 Brocade Communications Systems,Inc. All Rights Reserved.
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