



## Helping to ensure the IT at Colchester Institute runs smoothly

London, England – April 2007 – Brookcourt Solutions, the Redhill, Surrey-based IT systems integrator and solutions provider, is helping Colchester Institute maintain its position as one of the UK's key vocational training colleges with research into new technologies and core switch support, to its 1,700-strong PC multi-campus network.

"Colchester Institute is the largest vocational training college in Essex, and one of the largest in the UK, which makes its IT systems needs highly complex," said Phil Higgins, a senior partner with Brookcourt Solutions, who added that, with around 500 staff PCs and 1,200 student PCs, all connected to more than 100 servers, the IT and networking needs of the Institute are pushing the boundaries of virtualisation technology.

Thanks to VMWare's multi-OS technology, staff and students across the College's three main campuses, can securely access multiple applications running under different operating systems, all from a single terminal.

"Our in-house IT team are doing an excellent job in moving on up to utilise the benefits of VMWare," said Jayne Bacon, Colchester Institute's e-Learning Manager, who added that, the plan is to introduce many more VMWare virtualised servers, as well as a multi-site WiFi system to the network.

"We're also looking at VOIP technology. The central plan is to go for a scalable, sustainable and future-proof IT plus networking system that can efficiently service the needs of both staff and students alike, across all of our sites," she explained.

"We've also had our first SAN installed and that has been very successful. With Brookcourt providing the network systems support on core switches - we have a 1 Gbps backbone with 100 Mbps to every desktop – and maintenance side of things, we're confident that we can bring leading edge communications to everyone, no matter where they are on our many sites," she added.

Protecting Colchester Institute's major network is a central firewall system, which keeps everything under control and ensures the site complies with JANET (the Joint Academic NETwork) and other system requirements on network access.

"Our biggest IT problem at the moment is spam, for which we currently use anti-spam and virus filtering technology. Although only a small percentage of spam actually reaches our systems, this small amount is representing an ever increasing number of emails," she said.

Back at Brookcourt Solutions' Redhill headquarters, Higgins said that the College's multi-campus environment is an ideal proving ground for the obvious benefits that VMWare can bring to a major educational establishment.

“Whether staff or students prefer the benefits of the Windows, Mac or Unix/Linux operating systems, the virtualised servers installed at the Institute can more than meet their needs, without having to resort to a multiple topology hardware environment. The fact that Jayne and her IT team are running 100 Mbps to each and every desktop across all three campuses – complete with our continued research in to new technologies and core switch support - is testament to their abilities plus, of course, those of our own IT support and planning team,” he said.

“The real proof of Colchester Institute’s IT success is that they don’t monitor their network traffic – they don’t need to, as it works so well. I think that fact speaks for itself,” he added.

(NOTE: Brookcourt assisted with the licensing for the VMWare)

About Brookcourt Solutions

**Brookcourt Solutions provide state of the art secure networking solutions and services that offer measurable business value with unrivalled customer service.**

Our success comes from not only our ability to solve business problems using IT, but also in our capability in identifying new technologies that improves the business environment.

We address the need for enterprise-class secure networking by collaborating with industry leading vendors and advisors. Our unique and agile business model utilises the strength in these strategic relationships by reducing client risk whilst maintaining a competitive price.

We continue to build upon our solutions focus by improving our skills and accreditations within the emerging technology markets and on developing a range of services that compliment them. Coupled with our key technologies skills we are able to offer solutions covering Security, Wireless, WAN/LAN, IP Secure Convergence, Compliance, Network Managed Service and Maintenance Solutions.

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