

Customer Case Study

Winchester College

Prestigious Educational Establishment saves time and money fully securing their Active Directory



Customer Feedback

"The biggest benefit for us using Genesis was that it fully secured our Active Directory in the twinkling of an eye, which allowed us to more time to concentrate on making the rest of the network Adolescent Boy Proof."

Richard Taylor
Technical Architect
Winchester College



Solution Overview

Customer Profile

Winchester College is the oldest and one of the most prestigious educational establishments in England.

Business Situation

Winchester College needed fully secured network in aftermath of an infrastructure attack.

Solution

Winchester College uses Genesis to leverage maximum security benefits from Microsoft Network. Support the design and build of a new infrastructure.

Benefits

- Full implementation of true hierarchical authority within the Active Directory
- Reduced Active Directory design costs from saving time
- Reduced Active Directory implementation costs from using proven techniques
- Enhanced reliability due to use of a mature product

Software & Services

- Microsoft Windows Server with Active Directory
- Genesis
- Genesis RKeyTec Consultancy Services

Hardware

12 Servers servicing a single Domain

In the wake of an extremely serious attack on their network, Winchester College chose to fully rebuild their network infrastructure. To prevent a similar occurrence they decided to leverage all of the native security capabilities of the Active Directory and make this the cornerstone of their system. The RKeyTec Genesis Active Directory Tool allowed them to achieve this in a timely and cost effective manner.

Published: May 2006

The Situation



FOR 600 YEARS Winchester College has educated boys in beautiful surroundings. The medieval foundation of 70 poor Scholars has grown through the ages into a modern school of 700 boys and 100 teaching staff.

The Winchester College curriculum offers a wide variety of subjects to study from Arts and Classic, through Sciences and Design. More information about Winchester College can be obtained by visiting their web site at <http://www.winchestercollege.co.uk>

In the latter part of 2003 Winchester College was subjected to a malicious infrastructure attack. The opening paragraph from the post incident report sums up the problem in a very succinct fashion:

"The normal windows procedures had been followed to build the internal network, however the particularly virulent and malicious nature of the attack meant that the normal security precautions were insufficient to maintain system integrity"

The Requirements of Winchester College

Winchester College needed a robust and secure system that separated the 'administrative' and 'teaching' aspects of network service into discreet, protected entities.

Network identities had to be strongly protected to prevent pupils from circumventing the appropriate restrictions being placed on them by the school. At the same time staff required stable and seamless access to the teaching resources so critical to their classes.

Given its status as one of the pre-eminent schools in the world, Winchester College required even stronger security than most corporations, due mainly to the sensitive information it holds regarding its pupils and their parents.

After being subjected to a sustained, malicious attack, Winchester College made the difficult, but visionary decision to re-build its entire IT infrastructure with security as the principle focus.

... continued

The next step: Request a web-based demonstration or personal appointment by using the contact information, opposite. Reference sites available upon request.

Contact Details:

Telephone:
+44 20 7870 1618

Email:
Info@GenesisRKeyTec.com

Fax:
+44 8700 528 179

Web:
www.GenesisRKeyTec.com

Genesis Winchester College Case study

Continued . . .



Solution

The Winchester College network was completely dismantled and only limited email service left active for the summer.

Hardware that could be retained was catalogued and re-assigned, legacy and non-commercial grade hardware was replaced. The physical network was checked and upgraded where necessary. The critical services – email, file and printing were clustered for maximum tolerance. Security and infrastructure control were built in with data storage and management.

The Network was re-built, segmented, with separation enforced by strong firewalls. Monitoring and filtering systems were implemented to maintain the security of the system and give fine control access to internal and external resources.

Active Directory, the foundation of security and automation for the whole Windows Infrastructure, was fully implemented within days by use of the Genesis Tools. Without the Genesis “pre-fabrication” approach, this process would itself have taken several weeks to attain even basic results using the traditional methods of design and revision.

This ‘instant implementation’ of role-based, hierarchal authority and highly flexible Group policy architecture allowed the College’s IT staff to focus their efforts on the huge task of migrating the data and services for 1,000 users in the two month two window allowed them by the summer holidays; secure in the knowledge that security, stability and best practise had not been sacrificed in the pursuit of speed.

The new IT infrastructure was built, secured and ready to go when the staff and pupils returned for the autumn term.

The whole focus of the project was to deliver the network solution within a specified period of time, but it should not be overlooked that a consequence of the huge time savings was a corresponding reduction in the overall cost of the project – a fact much appreciated by the College when it came to paying the bill.

The Active Directory Maturity Model

The Active Directory Maturity Model is an audit process that examines the “current state” of the Active Directory. It delivers an accurate and quantitative report on the security and functional capability of any Microsoft Active Directory Implementation.

For more information on this subject and a White Paper entitled ‘Why Is It Important to Audit the Active Directory’ please visit our website at:

www.GenesisRKeyTec.com

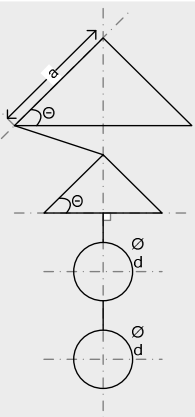
please feel free to **Contact Us** if you require more information.

Benefits Accrued to Winchester College

Winchester College has accrued many benefits from their association with Genesis RKeyTec and the use of the Genesis Expert System.

- Increased security through the implementation of full hierarchical authority.
- Reduced Total Cost of Ownership through the use of tried and tested, mature and resilient structures.
- Greater flexibility with the implementation of full hierarchal authority.
- Simplified administration.
- A long term technical relationship between two parties always derives benefits of understanding both business and technical requirements.
- Cheaper and faster initial implementation.
- Cheaper upgrade paths for Active Directory and it’s configuration.
- Cost effective & certain upgrade path.
- Future proofing of their Active Directory Design.

Cost savings, such as those delivered by Genesis; make a significant difference to every organisation, balancing security and functionality against cost.



The Genesis Advantage

- Reducing the design, prototyping and testing phases of Active Directory implementation projects by up to 90%
- Substantial reduction in deployment time
- Greatly increased security and functional capability of the Active Directory
- Simpler and more reliable administration leading to reduced administration overhead
- Stable global application behaviour
- Enhanced user experience: Systems, services & applications will behave the same regardless of logon location
- Quicker problem resolution due to standardised, fully documented structures
- Greater security against malicious attacks or administrative accidents.

What Is Genesis?

GENESIS is an expert system that allows any organisation to rapidly, and cost effectively implement a highly secure and functional “Pre-fabricated” Active Directory architecture into a new or existing Active Directory.

This case study is for information purposes only. Genesis RKeyTec makes no warranties, express or implied, in this summary. Microsoft, Active Directory and Windows are either registered trademarks or trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries. The names of actual companies and products mentioned herein may be the trademarks of their respective owners.

The next step: Request a web-based demonstration or personal appointment by using the contact information, opposite. Reference sites available upon request.

Contact Details:

Telephone:
+44 20 7870 1618

Email:
Info@GenesisRKeyTec.com

Fax:
+44 8700 528 179

Web:
www.GenesisRKeyTec.com

Microsoft®
GOLD CERTIFIED

Partner