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Westbrook Hay Prep School

Westbrook Hay, an Independent Prep school in Hemel Hempstead, were looking for a new network solution as their current infrastructure wasn't delivering the required capabilities and also left the network exposed to security breaches. The proposed solution- Cisco Meraki, enabled the school to manage and monitor the network with ease, as well as providing increased capacity and security.

Westbrook Hay

Employees & Students: 500
Sector: Education

Westbrook Hay is a thriving independent Prep school educating boys and girls aged 3- 13. The school's beautiful rural location boasts 26 acres of parkland overlooking the Bourne valley in Hertfordshire. The unique setting offers a secure environment within which children explore and enjoy all that childhood has to offer. Through visionary teaching in small classes and with a wonderful mixture of purpose built facilities and historic surroundings, the children enjoy a broad curriculum, achieve excellent results and have the all-important confidence to succeed.

www.westbrookhay.co.uk

The Requirement

Westbrook Hay needed a network refresh as they were previously using legacy Netgear which was out of date for the school's needs. The age of the Netgear also meant the network was vulnerable to security breaches and ransomware, so the solution needed to be robust and secure.

The expansion of their facilities and the flexible working hours of their IT Managers meant that the new solution needed to be scalable, flexible and cloud managed, so it can be monitored by their IT team both on and offsite. These requirements needed to be fulfilled within their set budget and timescale.

The Solution

The proposed solution was Cisco Meraki, as its key benefits are simplicity, security and scalability, therefore meeting Westbrook Hay's requirements. Meraki's cloud networking solution provides performance and manageability for reduced cost and complexity of traditional solutions and Cisco also offer flexible payment solutions and financing, enabling Westbrook Hay to choose an option which suited them best.

The refresh consisted of multiple network switches being replaced with Meraki MS120 and MS250 switches. This resulted in larger network capacity, enabling more end users to connect with wired connections, plus increased datacentre capacity.

Implementing Cisco Meraki also increased the security of Westbrook Hay's network, as the switches employ several security features which lock down ports and communications across the network, preventing security attacks. All Meraki networking solutions are also managed from a single dashboard, making it simple for Westbrook Hay to monitor and manage.

All configuration and engineering was completed within two days, providing a quick and effective solution to their requirement.

Key Benefits

Security is inherent in the design of Cisco Meraki switches, so Westbrook Hay could be sure their network is guarded from both external and internal threats.

The switches are managed through an intuitive cloud interface, freeing Westbrook Hay's IT Managers to spend less time on configuration and more time meeting business needs.

Where traditional networks typically require a lot of on-site support, with Meraki Westbrook Hay's IT Managers can monitor and manage the network remotely and whilst at other sites.

Cisco Partnership

As a Cisco Premier Certified Partner for over 10 years, we have the necessary skills and experience to help you meet the demands of mobility, collaboration and cloud computing. We employ leading technical consultants within our dedicated networking and security practice. As a result, we are one of only a few certified partners in the UK that are qualified to truly offer end-to-end services, backed up by comprehensive lifecycle support.

About Ultima

Ultima's mission is to become the trusted long term IT partner of UK businesses by providing robust, reliable and flexible solutions which bring real business benefit.

Ultima's services-led proposition delivers a range of refreshed IT solutions designed to address the latest business needs including Cyber Security, Risk, GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation), Mobility and Cloud.

Based on an integrated delivery model encompassing Fulfilment, Professional Services and Managed Services offerings, Ultima provides a seamless service experience for all their customers.

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Head Office
Gainsborough House,
Manor Park,
Basingstoke Road, Reading
RG2 0NA

📞 **0333 015 8000**
✉ **enquiries@ultima.com**
🖥 **www.ultima.com**
in **LinkedIn**
🐦 **Twitter**

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