

## **eLearning and eSafety Product Launches from Equinet**

Showing the company's continuing commitment to eLearning, eSafety and data security, Equinet has made significant new product introductions as well as notable enhancements to its well-established products for the education sector.

Regarding CachePilot, which is currently installed in over 12,000 schools, the latest iteration, CachePilot Plus, highlights that the product has kept pace both in terms of numbers of PCs being deployed and in the sophistication of media-rich resources being used. Offering increased performance to boost internet response, **CachePilot Plus** can store more than 50 eLearning titles simultaneously, while offering the best and very latest in content filtering security.

Equinet Managing Director, Keith Baker comments "2008/2009 has been a bumper period for us with many of the original CachePilot users choosing to upgrade to the more powerful CachePilot Plus model to cope with their schools' growing networks and ever greater use of internet connectivity. At a time when bandwidth costs are continuing to rise, the benefits of obtaining 30% to 40% better utilisation makes excellent sense and patently CachePilot is valued by many".

In eSafety, Equinet is announcing it is in the final stages of development of a wide-ranging one-stop solution for schools that will combat traditional threats by filtering out viruses, block hackers and stop the viewing of inappropriate websites; ranging to alerting on issues such as cyber-bullying, grooming, online gambling or the use of unmoderated chat rooms, blogs or instant messaging.

As part of the company's eSafety portfolio, Equinet has announced its new analysis and reporting appliance - **ReportPilot**. The new solution enables local authorities to centrally collect and analyse internet activity - typically on behalf of primary schools, or indeed for secondary schools to deploy their own device and undertake their own analysis. A comprehensive selection of built-in reports includes most visited sites, user activity, attempted access to blocked pages, bandwidth utilisation and performance. Network administrators can use a template facility to create, store and schedule their own customised reports. A powerful drill-down facility allows summary report information to be explored down to the underlying data.

“We see ReportPilot as being an excellent tool to monitor and then enable most efficient use of internet bandwidth resources and additionally to track and report on detailed user activity in an eSafety context.” says Keith Baker, Equinet’s Managing Director. “Being fully compatible with CachePilot, which is widely deployed in schools already, provides the opportunity to quickly deploy and reap the benefits of the new ReportPilot”.

Enhanced content filtering is available now on a range of Equinet equipment including CachePilot and **SecurePilot**, a secure network gateway and security device designed specifically for schools, and the company’s eSafety product – **eSafetyPilot**.

Equinet Marketing Director, David Abbot comments “We can now deploy the very best content filtering technology available such as Smoothwall’s Guardian, Netsweeper and Secure Computing. We have the means with this array to defeat anonymous proxies, so prevalent in secondary schools as a way to bypass older URL filtering systems. We examine the content of each requested page, rather than relying on the more traditional mechanisms of holding lists of inappropriate or illegal sites which unfortunately can never keep pace. Additionally, we can now also monitor and filter instant messaging sessions”.

**BackupPilot Plus**, launched at last year’s BETT show and now in operation in many schools throughout the country, is an easy to install device that ensures all school data is backed up without any need for human intervention – and will also be on show. Most significant developments of the past year have been the introduction of Equinet’s ‘Central Backup Solution’ and accreditation by Capita Children’s Services for backing up their widely deployed SIMS (School Information Management System) software.

“BackupPilot now has a scaleable remote central site complement to the backup appliance which has been so successfully deployed in-school.” says Keith Baker, Equinet’s Managing Director. “Being the only Capita accredited hardware/software appliance for backup of SIMS, we believe this is further evidence of the progress we are making in this area”.

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**About Equinet**

Equinet was founded in 1998 and led the way in the manufacture and supply of devices giving schools the peace of mind to make full use of the internet. Using the company's ability to deliver cost-effective, integrated hardware and software solutions, Equinet has developed a range of products with the twin themes of accelerating internet access to enable effective distribution and use of eLearning materials – complemented by enabling eSafety of pupils and security of both school network infrastructures and data.

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