



ICT upgrade to Burgmann Anglican School, Canberra Live@edu

Burgmann Anglican School in Canberra believed the time was right to upgrade their ICT infrastructure, to enable a future ready platform for the increasing IT needs of staff and students alike.

While the school's broad vision for their ICT framework is similar to many educational institutions, it's the journey they are taking to get there that Richard Bance, Head of IT at Burgmann, has at the forefront of his thinking.

"I am in the middle of a transformation program at Burgmann Anglican School, moving the school from a "small" school to a "large" school mentality in terms of its IT requirements and IT systems delivery" he said. "The IT systems that I inherited 16 months ago were not sized or designed in a manner suitable for a school of Burgmann's current size and projected growth (from 800 to 1500 students in a two year period)" he continued.

Richard had an eye on the future from the outset, stating *"the School's key theme is 'Sustainable IT for the future', and adding "The challenges I had and still have are to provide a first-class IT environment, while not breaking the bank".*

It was this reasoning that led him to contact Computelec towards the end of 2011, after he had met with Computelec representatives at an Education conference at Sydney earlier in the year, where he gained a deeper understanding of Computelec's core offering.

Being an expert in IT solutions in the education sector for over 25 years, and having designed and deployed multi-layered infrastructure solutions for some of Australia's best and progressive schools, the Computelec team's credentials made it easy for Richard to make his decision to engage them for the project he was about to embark upon at Burgmann.

"I think the main benefit is in dealing with a vendor who specialises in the Education Sector. Computelec absolutely met this," he said. "With this particular engagement with Computelec, I leveraged their expertise in the Education system to recommend and implement a cloud based email system for my student population".

Computelec's chief engineer on the project listened to Richard's needs and decided that a pure cloud system was required. Live@EDU was the solution that best suited the school's requirements and provide a reliable, easy-to-manage solution securely and safely hosted by Microsoft.

School: Burgmann Anglican School

Number of students: 1500

Location: Canberra

Challenge: The school needed to change the way their email was delivered to users as data storage had become an issue. As the school's future included a heavy reliance on BYOD infrastructure, the challenge needed to be viewed holistically as part of the school's overall ICT Strategic Plan.

Solution: The school now has first-hand experience of our capabilities in delivering ICT solutions that schools do not have skills or the expertise in and has been a great start to a new working relationship.

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Richard Bance. Head of IT. Burgmann Anglican School, Canberra.

The skilled Computelec engineering team worked closely with the school to understand their needs. Armed with their learning through listening, they decided upon a streamlined solution to support the school's long term goals, whilst minimising downtime and disruption throughout the implementation.

In all, it took just 6 days to switch the school to the Microsoft Cloud.

Computelec's Senior Systems Engineer said it was a relatively simple transition that was performed remotely. *"We accessed the Exchange Server at the school and went about synchronizing accounts from Active Directory using Powershell & FIM (Forefront Identity Manager) 2010 the software solution that is used in conjunction with Live@EDU."* He continued, *"the school now has a program that provides Education Institutions with a range of services including Live SkyDrive, Office Live Workspaces and Windows Live Messenger to name a few."* Schools can enroll in the program through a free registration process online. Live@Edu is currently being transitioned into Microsoft Office 365.

While the new system may sound complex, Computelec's engineering team pointed out that it is in fact not such a giant leap from what the school currently has in place. *"The Live@EDU environment is similar to the existing Exchange environment the school was already using, (the same familiar Outlook interface across PC & mobile devices), so it enabled a more seamless transition – in terms of usability – for the school."*

In short, Microsoft Live@edu offers an extensible platform that delivers control, enhanced security and other powerful features that are essential for today's school environments.

"I see us working with Computelec to assist on delivering aspects of Burgmann's IT Vision and Strategies." Richard Bance said, in confirming how the transition to Live @EDU was already helping him meet the Burgmann's long term ICT strategies.

A vision that *"all students are fully equipped with 21st Century learning skills so that their daily school experience is enhanced and informed via the use of a wide range of engaging learning technologies. The delivery of personalised and blended learning experiences, designed collaboratively and iteratively by teachers, are accessible for all, anytime, anywhere!"* he said, *"Live@ EDU is one of the tools that can enable this".*

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