



## Success Story

### THE MOUNTBATTEN SCHOOL

**A forward-thinking secondary school in Hampshire demonstrates its commitment to raising standards through technology by investing in a flexible shared storage and Virtual Tape Library backup solution from Overland Storage.**

#### Challenges:

- Lack of adequate storage space to meet increased use of technology in schools
- Constant juggling for storage space led to wasted time and effort
- Backups and restores taking too long

#### Solution:

- One REO 4000 disk-based backup and recovery appliance configured as both shared storage and Virtual Tape Library

#### Benefits:

- Allows ICT to support new and advanced learning initiatives
- Ideal price/performance for school budgets
- Less time and resource spent on backup and storage issues
- Safe, secure data storage mitigates risk of data loss
- Simplicity of installation, ease of use

#### Reseller:

NexStor  
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The use of Information & Communications Technologies (ICT) in the classroom and for student course work is growing at a phenomenal rate in UK schools. Government initiatives such as Personalised Learning and Virtual Learning Environments are driving the change, encouraging schools to put ICT at the heart of the teaching and learning experience across the curriculum.

**'The REO 4000 is cost effective, quick to install, simple to manage and easy to use.'**

Chris Goodrich, Network Manager,  
The Mountbatten School

The challenge for school ICT departments is to provide an infrastructure that can fully support all these changes. One school rising to the challenge is The Mountbatten School in Romsey, Hampshire.

The Mountbatten School is a comprehensive which educates 11-16 year-olds of all abilities and from a variety of social backgrounds. It is a high-achieving school, attaining very good exam results and enjoying an excellent local reputation. It has around 1,425 students and over 100 staff.

Chris Goodrich, the school's Network Manager, comments, "ICT is hugely important to our school. If ICT resources were not available, teachers wouldn't be able to deliver the curriculum. ICT is used in the classroom, for coursework, for administration of the school – for everything. And of course, all data has to be backed up and stored effectively and securely."

#### The Challenge

The main issues driving the school to find a new network storage and backup environment were lack of server based storage capacity and the need for a simpler, quicker method of backup and restore of lost files.

Goodrich explains the situation: "As the reliance on ICT has grown in the school, teachers and students need to store increasing amounts of data, not just more and more files, but bigger and bigger ones too, due to the use of complex media files in many subjects."

As a result the school's servers were continually running out of storage capacity which meant the ICT team were spending too much of their time juggling data between the servers.

It eventually reached the point where not all files could be stored centrally, giving rise to the risk of data loss.

Goodrich knew that with data growth inevitable over the next few years, the problem would only get worse.

"We needed to create room for future progression and growth to allow us to support initiatives like the Virtual Learning Environment and to convert all our teaching videos to digital for streaming into the classroom," says Goodrich.

The data backup process was becoming an issue too. Two of the schools seven servers were responsible for backup to tape, with tapes stored in a fire proof safe in the ICT block.

**'We can usually restore straight from the REO, which takes less than 30 seconds.'**

Chris Goodrich, Network Manager,  
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Each week the network team were receiving around 5 to 10 requests from students to retrieve lost work. To restore the files they had to physically retrieve the tape, load it and search for the relevant file. This was obviously time-consuming. A simpler and more efficient method of recovering lost files would be a great benefit.



**'Even the space-hungry music and graphics files can all be safely stored.'**

Chris Goodrich,  
Network Manager,  
The Mountbatten  
School

In addition, if a new solution was about to increase data storage capacity, the pressures on the backup and restore process were bound to increase too.

The big challenge therefore was to solve the two issues at the same time.

## The Solution

Goodrich understood his problem and his requirements only too well. His next task was to find the best solution.

A few months previously, he had met Overland Storage key partner NexStor at an exhibition, so he contacted them and explained all the issues.

NexStor recommended the REO 4000 appliance, configured as both shared storage and as a Virtual Tape Library (VTL). This achieves the dual requirement to increase storage capacity and future-proof the backup environment.

Each of the school's servers attach to disk volumes (LUNs) on the REO 4000 via Microsoft's iSCSI Initiator, allowing remote network-attached storage to be mounted as if local to the server.

In addition, a section of the REO 4000 has been configured as a VTL using Dynamic Virtual Tape (DVT) for handling backups to disk. Once backed up and protected, the data can then be copied onto tape for storage in the fire proof safe.

The order was signed in September 2006 and by the end of October it was installed and up and running.

"It was all incredibly quick, easy and efficient," says Goodrich. "Installation was completed in just one day."

## Benefits

The REO 4000 has given The Mountbatten School the storage space it needs to support the most up-to-date learning and teaching methods.

"The REO 4000 allows staff and students much more disk space for their work, so that even the space-hungry music and graphics files can all be safely stored," says Goodrich. "And because we are only using a small amount of available capacity at the moment, there is plenty of growth in the solution."

The fact that the REO 4000 has given the school backup capability as well as shared storage in one appliance is another great benefit of the solution.

"The REO 4000 solution has streamlined the backup process and is saving us a lot of time and resources restoring lost files," Goodrich explains. "We back up to disk every night and keep the disks for one week, before copying files onto tape. As most requests for restores happen in the first week, we can usually restore straight from the REO, which takes less than 30 seconds."

Goodrich sums up why he is so pleased with the chosen solution: "The REO 4000 is cost effective, quick to install, simple to manage and easy to use. It definitely achieves all that we hoped it would."

"School ICT departments really need to anticipate the huge demand that will be placed on them by the inevitable explosion in the use of digital media by students," he continues. "And they must rise to the challenge if they are to support fully all the new teaching and learning processes."

By choosing the REO 4000 from Overland Storage, The Mountbatten School has a solution that serves its needs now and well into the future. It's a solution that streamlines the whole data backup and storage process, making it more effective, safe and simple – and it doesn't break budgets either.

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## About Overland Storage

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