

8,000 Students and 400 Staff at West Thames College Benefit from Secure Remote Access and Flexible Home Working from Network Defence

Further education college chooses AppGate VPN solution to give round-the clock access to departmental and public data files for more flexible work and study

“Network Defence took the headache out of installation, delivering a solution which not only brings real and tangible benefits to staff and students, but also reduces the burden on our IT department, with outsourced firewall and proxy services ensuring secure, reliable access.”

Richard Stephenson, Network Manager, West Thames College

Key Benefits:

- Flexible and secure remote access to college resources
- More efficient out-of-hours support
- Minimised IT support for installation
- Requires no training

The Challenge:

West Thames College is a Further Education institution with 400 staff and over 8,000 students located in Isleworth and Feltham. West Thames College specialises in vocational and professional courses and has the highest success rate out of all the FE colleges in London.

West Thames College needed a solution which would extend the traditional operating hours at the college outside regular nine-to-five hours, giving staff and students the flexibility to work remotely with controlled access to shared and personal data files and college resources as well as enabling key IT personnel to provide out-of-hours support remotely.

The Solution:

A secure virtual private network solution from AppGate was installed in a project designed and implemented by systems integrator Network Defence.

Network Defence custom-designed a secure remote access solution to meet the specific ICT requirements of the college, using a clientless VPN solution.

AppGate's browser-based solution gives authorised users access to specified applications through password authentication and RSA SecurID and is protected through encryption and tunnelling.

The Benefits:

A key advantage of the AppGate solution installed by Network Defence is that it delivers flexible remote access whilst still maintaining security and access policies at the college. Centrally managed, management, staff and students now have flexible and secure remote access to individual and shared files on the college server when and where they choose.

Furthermore, staff has additional access to departmental files to enable them to work remotely out of hours. Core IT staff and management also have remote desktop protocol, giving them authorised access to their own PC whenever they need it and enabling them to deliver remote support when needed.

In addition, the clientless nature of the solution has eliminated the need to install new software on users PC's. Easy to set and manage, the VPN solution has minimised the need for IT support for installation or administration rights and requires virtually no training.

Richard Stephenson, Network Manager at West Thames College said: "The VPN solution from AppGate has successfully extended our opening hours beyond the traditional nine to five and has brought key benefits for staff, students and management with increased flexibility, remote access to college resources and more efficient out-of-hours support.

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reduces the burden on our IT department, with outsourced firewall and proxy services ensuring secure, reliable access.

“We also have the flexibility and functionality to develop controlled third party access with the AppGate solution, giving business partners authorised access to specific key applications and database servers to allow for quick response and support.”

Technologies Used:

- Mobile Working & VPN
- Managed Services