

News NetWork



Net North West's Official Newsletter

Issue 2 Spring/Summer 2006

Net North West is back on the Web!

Net North West is proud to announce that our new website is now online!

The new website supports our recent re-branding and visitors now have a source of comprehensive information with more detail than has previously been available on the Net North West site.

Official publications, such as our Annual Report, can now be viewed online and visitors can also catch up with our latest news or view the live status of the network. The new site also includes a jargon buster for those who are not technically minded but would still like learn more about NNW.

Net North West



About | Network | News/Publications | Community | Services | Partnerships

Welcome to the new Net North West website!

About Net North West



The Network



News and Publications



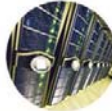
The Net North West Community



Added Value Service



Partnerships



Home | Contact Us | Jargon Explained | Links

© 2005 Net North West Ltd, Edge Hill, St Helen's Road, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 4QP
Images appear courtesy of University of Manchester, University of Central Lancashire and Edge Hill

Above: The new Net North West home page

See the change for yourself at www.netnw.net.uk

Upgrades Update

Recently Net North West has been working on 63 various installations, on behalf of UKERNA. These include upgrades for Further Education Colleges to increase bandwidth, Adult and Community Learning installations and Workers Educational Association installations.

At the time of publication, we have completed 95% of these installations: 98% of FE upgrades are now in service as well as 91% of our ACL installations and 50% of WEA installations. This

work is helping to expand the Net North West network and make it a faster, more resilient network for all our users.



Improved Technical Support

Procedures are now in place for NNW's technical support following a network fault in December where, for various reasons, support staff could not be contacted.



During working hours (07:30 - 20:00 Monday to Friday) faults should be reported to the NNW operations desk and during extended hours (20:00 - 22:00 Monday to Friday, 09:00 - 18:00 Weekends) an on-call member of staff can be contacted. Outside of these hours only major faults should be reported. Phone numbers will be available to select staff from member and customer institutions only.

These guidelines will help to ensure that NNW continues to operate a reliable network.

Net North West plays a VITAL role for Liverpool Students

Net North West has approved funding towards a new high speed link to the University of Liverpool's Carnatic Halls of Residence, as the success of the University's VITAL (Virtual Interactive Teaching At Liverpool) service has led to increased pressure on the existing network connection.

The Carnatic site is based approximately five miles from the main University campus, making a network link here essential; it connects some 1,425 students and more than 100 staff to the Net North West network, allowing them to share large amounts of information and data amongst themselves quickly and easily and providing them with internet access.



Students will find improved network facilities in the Carnatic Halls of Residence



VITAL was launched in 2003 and is jointly run by the University's Computing Service and the Centre for Lifelong Learning. It provides students with an online learning environment which offers access to teaching materials, discussion groups and tests.

By late 2005, demand for this service was huge and there were sometimes 2,000 students simultaneously logged into VITAL! The VITAL web pages were also seeing over 10 million hits every month, putting a considerable strain onto the existing connection.

The new high speed (1 gigabit) link will mean that even more information can be passed over the network at greater speeds, meaning an improved service for VITAL users and a more efficient network for staff and students at The University of Liverpool.

Left:: The University of Liverpool's management school

What it's all about...

For Net North West's members and partners new developments are taking place all the time. However, Net North West ensures it never loses sight of its primary role, which is:

- To provide its member institutions and associated partners with the most reliable fully resilient high speed network, enabling them to meet their individual academic missions
- To ensure this network develops in a manner that ensures this continued high quality provision
- To provide a level of support to the network ensuring a high quality of service



UCLan Displays New Technology

The University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) is using the capabilities of the Net North West network to overcome the challenge of communicating with its great numbers of staff and students.

PLASMA screens have been installed around UCLan's Preston, Carlisle and Penrith campuses which continually feed current news and information, such as corporate news, locations of available PCs and happenings in individual buildings to passers by.

The screens have been a big hit with staff and students since they were launched in late 2005. Michael Ahern, Director of Information Systems at UCLan said, "It's great that we can utilise our NNW connectivity across Cumbria and Lancashire to keep staff and students right up to date with events at UCLan. When you are as geographically diverse as we are, this can be a real challenge, but Net North West has helped us to tackle this."

Left: One of the PLASMA screens, located in UCLan's Adelphi Building

Connecting Cancer Care

Recognising the vital role that research plays in cancer care and treatment, the Christie Hospital, one of NNW's connected institutions, has just unveiled plans in partnership with the University of Manchester and Cancer Research UK, for the development of the Manchester Cancer Research Centre.

The Christie Hospital is one of the largest cancer centres in Europe. Based in Manchester, the hospital covers a population of 3.2 million across Greater Manchester and Cheshire, treating approximately 180,000 patients every year. Patients come to the Christie from even further a field, especially those with complex or rare cancer, due to the hospital's excellent facilities and reputation.

Research is vital to the understanding and treatment of cancer, and the Christie has achieved world firsts in research throughout its 10 year history. Its connection to the Net North West network means that highly complex technology based research can be carried out at great speeds and with great capacity, so helping to bring the UK one step closer to curing the disease.

The new research centre will combine research efforts from the University of Manchester, the Christie Hospital, The Paterson Institute and Cancer Research UK. An estimated £30 - 50 million is expected to be secured to fund world class researchers, laboratories and patient research facilities, with the aim to double cancer research activity in the city over the next five years.

Right: Equipment at the Christie Hospital



SJ5 - The Latest



With the delivery of the Super JANET 5 core earmarked for April 2006, Net North West is getting a little bit closer to being able to connect its users to the most up to date and

most technologically advanced version of JANET.

JANET is the UK's Joint Academic Network and it connects many regional networks across the world, like Net North West, to form one huge academic network, which has over 16million users! This network allows all of these users to mutually share large amounts of information at great speeds; fuelling learning and research.

Currently Net North West connects to SuperJANET4. The transition to SuperJANET 5 is set to take place in Autumn 2006 and the whole process will be complete by December 2006. The new network will be able to separate different types of network traffic, so providing an even faster, more resilient network.

Place label here

Solve Spam with SoftScan!

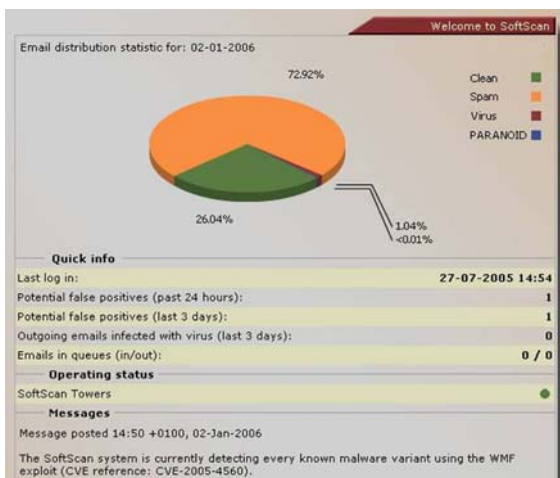
Following successful trials with some of our users, Net North West is highlighting the benefits of using SoftScan to protect against unwanted emails and viruses.

SoftScan provides a hosted spam and virus email filtering service that uses advanced analysis of email behaviour to block unwanted emails and enable it to stop viruses.

Anne-Marie Dibben, IT Systems Manager of Sir John Deane's College, used the SoftScan services as part of a trial and said, "Since we started using SoftScan not only have we noticed a decrease in spam but there has also been a huge reduction in the number of email viruses entering the College. I am very pleased with the service."

Wilf Gardner, Business Development Manager of NNW said: "After considerable review of the leading providers, SoftScan was by far the most flexible in their approach. As each separate institution that connects to NNW will have different needs, this service is very appealing and could be very beneficial to users."

For more information contact Net North West's Business Development Manager, Wilf Gardner at wilf.gardner@wilfdotgardner.co.uk, or visit our website at www.netnw.net.uk



Above: The SoftScan overview screen allows users to instantly see how many virus and spam emails are being blocked by SoftScan.