



Case Study

21st Century Learning A Reality At Cranbrook School

CUSTOMER PROFILE

Cranbrook School is an independent school located in the eastern suburbs of Sydney with over 1390 students

BUSINESS SITUATION

The school wanted to create a student-centred on-line environment for teaching and learning where students have access to essential information, assessment tasks & supporting resources while teachers can develop and store their resources in a secure and managed domain

SOLUTION

Cranbrook School adopted Microsoft Office SharePoint Server (MOSS) 2007 as the platform of choice

SOFTWARE & HARDWARE

MS Office SharePoint Server 2007
Microsoft SNA Server
Microsoft SQL Server 2005
HP ProLiant Blade Server

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*- Mark McAndrew
Director of Teaching & Learning
Cranbrook School*

Cranbrook School, an independent school located in the eastern suburbs of Sydney, has been educating boys since 1918. The school comprises five campuses, the Senior School (Years 7–12), the Junior School (Years 3–6), Dickins House (Kindergarten to Year 2) and two pre-schools, and caters for approximately 1390 students.

In keeping with the school's mission, "to be a leading Australian school committed to nurturing the growth of individual boys from childhood to adulthood", the school has educated some of Australia's most prominent citizens including Australia's microsurgery pioneer Professor Earl Owen, Professor James May, actor, John Gaden, former Supreme Court Judge of NSW, Judge Ken Handley, movie director, Simon Wincer and e-commerce leader, Craig Carroll.

All educational institutions are grappling with the divide between 20th century teachers and 21st century students. Cranbrook School understands that learners (and teachers) in the 21st century live in a digital world. They use digital technology as a normal way of interacting with their environment and each other. They use it to communicate with their friends and family, to access information and for leisure. They are familiar with multiple formats, expect instant results and may rely on on-line information in preference to traditional print formats. The school believes that, if teaching and learning programs are to be engaging, they must keep pace with the environment of the learner. Therefore access to high quality resources and effective incorporation of information technologies into the curriculum are essential and, as a consequence, Cranbrook School has ensured:

- That classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards, data projectors and internet access
- Education in safe and appropriate use of Web2.0 technologies
- Access to and training in tools for the on-line creation, storage and delivery of resources, such as ClickView, Quia, JStor and Questia
- That teachers are kept informed and equipped with skills and strategies to use and incorporate these technologies into their teaching programs.

It is in this environment that the notion of a portal to support access to information and resources was born. Cranbrook School needed a learning management system that would support teaching and learning, that would allow teachers to communicate with students and parents through technology, and that would provide ease of access to academic and co-curricular programs while improving collaboration and increasing the school's organisational efficiency on



the Microsoft platform. It was envisaged that the new system would also provide a rich personal portal experience for all to share but in a secure and well-managed infrastructure. CDC Praxa provided the support, expertise and onsite service needed to develop, implement and enhance Cranbrook School's portal requirements. The Cranbrook School portal went live this year after careful preparation throughout 2007.

"Our aim was to create a student-centred on-line environment for teaching and learning at Cranbrook School", explains Hilary Dixon, Dean of Studies at Cranbrook School. "The portal was designed to provide student access to essential information, assessment tasks, and supporting resources. We also wanted ease of use for teachers, allowing them to develop and store their resources in a secure and managed domain. Microsoft Learning Gateway allows us excellent flexibility for future directions."

Cranbrook School has a comprehensive IT environment built on Microsoft technologies, including Windows Server/Active Directory, SQL and Exchange servers supporting each of the three campuses responsible for the teaching and learning of students in Kindergarten to Year 12. The adaptation of the Microsoft Learning Gateway (MLG) framework, based on MS Office SharePoint Server 2007 and SQL Server 2005 to replace the school's previous intranet ensures a return on the school's investment through compatibility, functionality and cost and, most importantly, it provides the students, teachers and parents with the most favorable means to connect, communicate and collaborate with each other, taking the school into the 21st century with regard to standards of teaching and learning.

"We see the portal, not only as a tool for providing access to student and teacher learning resources, but also as an environment for communication and collaboration, as is fitting in schooling of the 21st Century," states Mark McAndrew, Director of Teaching and Learning. "Learning Gateway is proving flexible, accessible and scalable for a student learning management system and beyond."

The primary technical advantages to Cranbrook School in implementing MS Office SharePoint Server 2007 are the provision of:

- Enhanced content management capability
- Enhanced portal and site search capability
- Enhanced template and style sheet design
- Enhanced audience targeting throughout the portal sites, including content targeting
- Enhanced portal site management through improved site hierarchy management
- The new learning management tool – SharePoint Learning Kit (SLK) without additional costs

"At the time of assessing a new Intranet technology, Cranbrook School was using a hosted Intranet service," explains Greg Edgerton, Project Manager from CDC Praxa. "The school considered it more cost effective and more flexible to implement an in-house Intranet platform that would deliver improved performance, and enhanced functional and collaboration capabilities. Cranbrook selected Microsoft Office SharePoint Server (MOSS) 2007 as the platform of choice as it met the key goals and objectives. Cranbrook had also established a number of design criteria which were required for their new on-line learning solution and these criteria were able to be successfully delivered through MOSS 2007."



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