

Education Customer Story

Taming an escalating print budget



Management Need

St. Martin's School couldn't keep on top of its printing and copying budget. Despite budgetary increases each year, costs continually outstripped budget – usually with several months of the financial year left to run. Running three separate networks and a fleet of 550 computers with both Windows and OS X was the initial complication. The school needed a solution that allowed staff and pupils the freedom to move between networks and allow them up to date accounts of their remaining print balances.

The Solution

After researching a number of different solutions, St. Martin's rolled out PaperCut MF across the entire network. The fully featured printing and copying management system allowed them to set quotas and carefully track printing statistics so the IT team knew exactly how much was being printed, and by whom.

Result

The school's printing budget has been tamed! Printing costs are now coming in under budget, allowing the school to spend excess funds on new print equipment. Students and faculty now rely on their set quotas, encouraging them to think before they print.

St. Martin's School



Customer Profile

St. Martin's School

Country UK

Staff 100

Students 1100

Website stmartins.caerphilly.sch.uk

St. Martin's School is a co-educational comprehensive school for almost 1,100 students aged 11–18. Built originally in 1927, the school operated as Caerphilly Grammar School for Boys until 1973 when the school underwent significant additions and became a co-educational, comprehensive school.



Configuration

Product PaperCut MF

Grayscale Printers 39

Color Printers 10

Primary Servers 1

Secondary Servers 1

Budgets in mind

PaperCut MF's ability to provide both print budgets for departments and individual budgets for students provided the right degree of flexibility in print management.

Budget costs spiraling out of control

Schools are used to facing all sorts of financial pressure, but the pressure can really hit when that money starts drying up before the year is even finished.

That's exactly the problem St. Martin's was facing with its printing and copying budget not even stretching through a full 12 months.

"Our print management budget of approximately £60,000 a year that included all print and photocopying maintenance contracts would last only 6-8 months," said Network Manager, Paul Williams. "We couldn't really get clear visibility of expenditure and print volumes."

The school had 550 computers running on both Windows and OS X, so Williams knew any print management solution had to be robust enough to deal with a variety of operating systems. Additionally, he needed to find a new system that would allow students and faculty to print across various networks, but also allow them to check how much money they had available to spend on printing and copying.

Finally, Williams wanted to get a greater view of the school's printing costs. Any system needed to come with full capability to track usage across the entire school body.

PaperCut MF provides the best of both worlds

After in-depth research into possible solutions and a PaperCut MF demonstration, Williams knew he'd found what he needed. "PaperCut MF simply seemed the best option for full school print and photocopying management. An all-in-one, easy to use and manageable system," he said.

PaperCut MF was installed and initially used to monitor print and copy volumes across one term in order to understand current usage patterns and track print spending. With this data in hand, a term budget was set for each department and a weekly quota for students.

"PaperCut MF was the only system that could easily cope with our school network infrastructure," remarked Williams.

A new strategy provides significant cost savings

Since introducing PaperCut MF, the school has not increased its printing budget, and is in fact coming in under budget, allowing additional investment in new print and photocopying equipment. Students and staff have adapted well to using quotas, and have modified their behavior to think before they print.

The school now plans to upgrade all its networked printers and photocopiers, and will ensure that all devices have PaperCut MF embedded as standard.

Williams is also investigating the use of virtual print queues to allow staff to send print jobs and then securely collect them from a convenient copier. Using PaperCut MF's Find-Me Printing, allows only the authorized user to release and see their documents - ensuring no more prying eyes on confidential information such as student reports and agreements.

Find out how to tame your growing print budget, email or visit

sales@papercut.com

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