

# Case Study - The Oak's CE Learning Federation

Read on to find out how Coretek joined the IT systems from three separate schools into one - allowing staff and pupils to roam seamlessly and share files.



*"I first came across and worked with Coretek whilst Headteacher at Wellow Primary School some 6 years ago and was happy to bring them with me when I took over as Executive Headteacher of the Oaks CE Learning Federation in 2010, encompassing Copythorne, Netley Marsh and St Michael & All Angels CE Infants Schools. The Oaks Federation was only a year old when I joined and I inherited 3 schools with completely different IT resources and issues. Whilst the schools had always used the services of Hampshire IT, we felt that many of the issues we faced, including networking our schools, was both much more expensive with Hants IT and perhaps "just another project" for them which made things rather impersonal. Coretek were cheaper for us by far and they provided a friendly and informed service including on-site support. When calling the company I can be put through to a technician I know and who knows our systems. Any problems are given priority and sorted quickly."*

Tina Daniel  
Executive Headteacher, The Oaks CE Learning Federation

## Customer Requirements:

1. **Network all 3 schools** of the Oaks Learning Federation together.
2. All **data to be accessible regardless of school** site and can be easily shared between schools.
3. **Users to log in at any school** using the same account, with full access to their files.
4. **Laptops to roam between schools** without having to reconnect to the wireless network.

## Overview

We took over the Oaks Learning Federation in 2010. At this time, the 3 schools; Copythorne, Netley Marsh and St Michael & All Angels, were completely separate entities with no discernible links between their IT infrastructures. The only way to share files was via email or to physically take files between schools using a USB pen drive or External disk. The prospect of pupils or staff working at one of the other schools for a day was an administrative nightmare and the idea of wireless devices roaming between schools, out of the question.

## Stay in touch

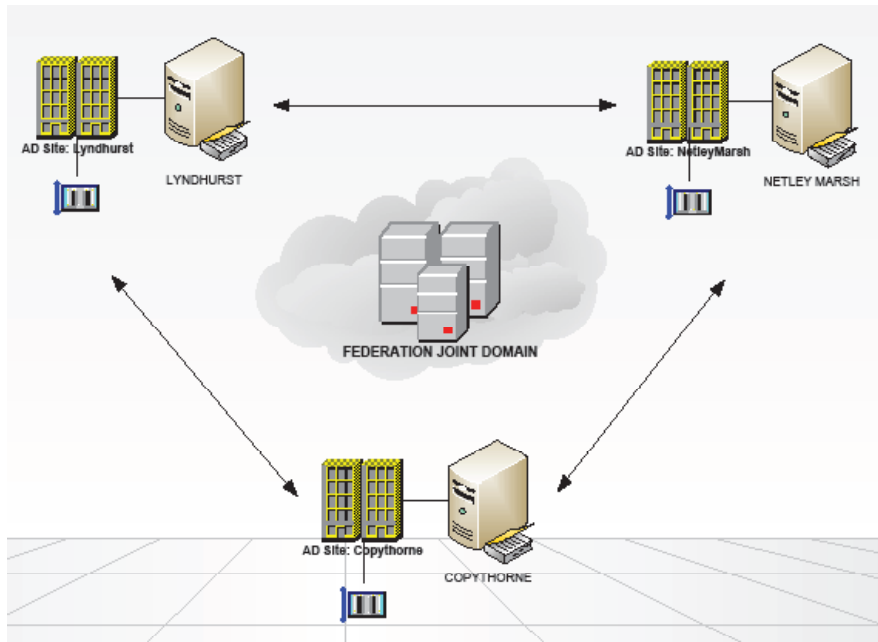
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## How this was achieved

The initial stage was to connect the 3 separate school networks. This work consisted of adding in additional routes to allow the school networks to communicate via the internet line. Primarily, this was configured by the ISP following consultation from Coretek. In this particular instance, the internet line was a HPSN2 line provided by Hampshire IT. One single domain was created for all 3 schools, providing a centralised repository of user accounts and thus resulting in greatly simplified administration from a support perspective.



Installing a Windows 2008 R2 server at each school site provided a suite of enterprise-level tools included in the price of the operating system. DFS (Distributed File System) provided a continually updated copy of the data at each school and configuring RADIUS on the server provided the 3 schools with a roaming wireless solution. These same toolsets have been implemented not only in schools but also many of our business clients, for whom reliability and constant access to data is paramount.

## “Coretek provided a friendly and informed service”

Completion of the project was achieved within time and budget. The system has now been installed for over a year and by all accounts has been an unmitigated success. Senior and admin staff hold regular meetings where they can all take their laptops (and access their own prospective files) and can easily move between schools. This has resulted in a far more productive working environment.

A culture of collaboration has been encouraged between the schools as now, pupils frequently visit the other schools to interact with the other children. As with the staff, the pupils can access all their work as if they were working at their own school.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with any members of our educational team who will be happy to help.

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