

# espresso<sup>TM</sup>

education ltd

 Success Stories

## Espresso – As You Like It

Wolverhampton LEA  
Staffordshire LEA  
Cornwall LEA

### *Delivery Methods to Meet LEA Needs*

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*In our opinion, Espresso was the only service that we could consider purchasing for the whole LEA. In fact, it is the only ICT resource that has been bought as a city-wide resource. This is due to the fact that it is a continually growing service that is high in quality as well as quantity. The fact that Espresso could deliver the updates in a way that suited us was also an important factor.*”

~Mr. Tim Westwood, Head of Finance and ICT, Wolverhampton LEA

## Espresso As You Like It

With over 1,000 subscribing schools using its resources, Espresso Education is the leading provider of educational broadband content in the UK. Espresso is a comprehensive digital library of high quality, video-rich teaching resources and interactive student activities that supports teachers, motivates pupils and raises standards in primary and secondary classrooms. With 1,500 topical one-minute video clips, 321 web sites, 450 multimedia activities and 1,400 newspaper stories at their fingertips, teachers across the country are waking up their class with a sip of Espresso!



One aspect that makes Espresso so unique is its weekly updates of video-rich materials, providing schools with a regular supply of fresh and topical teaching resources. Traditionally, these updates were delivered direct to a subscribing school's server via satellite technology. However, Espresso has now developed a number of new delivery methods that offer schools and LEAs a choice in the way they receive the service - *'Espresso as you like it'*.

Below are three case studies focusing on Wolverhampton, Staffordshire and Cornwall LEAs, which will illustrate how Espresso has been able to implement content delivery to suit the varied needs of each LEA. They will also illustrate how Espresso can maximize investment in ICT by making use of existing technical infrastructure.

### Wolverhampton LEA

**Method of delivery:** FTP/HTTP over a Broadband connection

**Number of schools:**

Junior Schools	10
Primary Schools	62
Infant Schools	11
Special Schools	6

**Number of pupils:** 23,231

Over 80% of schools in the LEA have the Espresso for Primary resource

Wolverhampton is a compact urban authority on the northwestern edge of the West Midlands conurbation. It has a population of around 250,000.

### **Wolverhampton LEA**

Tim Westwood, Head of Finance and ICT, Wolverhampton LEA, explains how the schools under his remit receive their weekly updates to the Espresso service:

"The LEA began subscribing to the Espresso service in September 2002 after I saw the resource at the BETT exhibition earlier in the year."

As part of Espresso's implementation, a technical team performs a comprehensive audit of the school's existing IT infrastructure. The aim is to see if the school's existing equipment can be utilised in delivering the Espresso updates.

Wolverhampton LEA is connected to Wmnet, a regional initiative established under the UK's National Grid for Learning (NGfL) to maximise the potential of ICT. This gives them a high-speed 10mb connection to the Internet. "Espresso uses our existing broadband connection to its full potential to deliver the weekly updates", explains Tim Westwood. "By utilising our existing infrastructure, the service also represents exceptional value for money and the quality of learning materials is second to none."

"Each school receives its weekly update direct from Espresso via our 10mb broadband Internet connection. The updates are then 'cached' onto the Espresso server at each school, ready to be accessed quickly over the school's local network."

Every Wednesday subscribing schools look forward to receiving fresh, new materials. Teachers and pupils wait with anticipation for the next installment of Espresso resources. Teachers know they can rely on the weekly update of relevant material and they are never disappointed.

Tim Westwood concludes, "In our opinion, Espresso was the only service that we could consider purchasing for the whole LEA. In fact, it is the only ICT resource that has been bought as a city-wide resource. This is due to the fact that it is a continually growing service that is high in quality as well as quantity. The fact that Espresso could deliver the updates in a way that suited us was also an important factor."

It is an opinion that teachers within Wolverhampton LEA share. Gavin Hawkins, ICT Coordinator, Stow Heath Junior School, says, "Teachers use the Espresso service on a weekly basis, but as they grow increasingly familiar with the resources, they are using it more and more. Espresso is excellent value for money because of its quality of resources and breadth of coverage for the primary curriculum."

Tim is optimistic about the future, "Espresso has changed the way teachers are teaching curriculum subjects. They are embracing the use of video materials as an integral part of their lesson introductions. My expectations are high in regards to Espresso improving standards within the LEA."



Schools within Wolverhampton LEA are lucky to have such fast access to the Internet, enabling Espresso's updates to reach them with ease. But broadband is by no means essential for receiving Espresso.

#### **Stow Heath Junior School**

Hill Road  
Portobello  
Willenhall  
West Midlands  
WV13 3TT  
Tel: 01902 558 820  
Fax: 01902 631282

**ICT Coordinator:**  
Gavin Hawkins

**Number of pupils:** 369

Stow Heath is a large junior school situated on the eastern edge of Wolverhampton. The school shares the same site as Stow Heath Infant School

### **Staffordshire LEA**

Following a trial of the service, Staffordshire LEA became a full subscriber to Espresso in 2002. The 7 schools involved in the pilot project had received their Espresso updates via satellite. However, as the service is rolled out across the county, it has become clear that the LEA's Wide Area Network (WAN), linking the county's schools with the LEA, could play a central role in the delivery of Espresso.

Espresso is now working alongside Staffordshire LEA to integrate its service into the Staffordshire Broadband Project. This will see Espresso's updates cached on a central content server and accessed by individual school via the WAN. Those schools that do not benefit from broadband access to the WAN can still rely on Espresso's more traditional methods of delivery, including satellite.

Howard Bagshaw, ICT Inspector, Staffordshire LEA, explains, "The weekly content updates will be sent direct from Espresso to the LEA's head offices via broadband and stored on our central content server. Most of the schools across the county will then access the Espresso service via our Wide Area Network (WAN). We expect this method of content delivery to be reliable and technically resilient, giving teachers and pupils immediate access to topical, video-rich teaching resources at the touch of button."

### **Staffordshire LEA**

**Method of delivery:** FTP/HTTP, Espresso is cached at the LEA and accessed by the schools via a WAN.

**Number of schools:**

Nursery	9
Primary	312
Middle	14
Special	23

**Number of pupils:** 131,085

Staffordshire is in the centre of the geographical and industrial heartland of Britain. It has a population of 800,000 people and the LEA is responsible for the administration of 413 schools and employs nearly 7,000 teachers.

### **Gorsemoor Primary School**

Gorsemoor Road  
Heath Hayes  
Cannock  
Staffordshire  
WS12 5TG  
Tel: 01543 274788  
Fax:01543 278623

**Head Teacher and  
ICT Coordinator:** Paul Bennett

**Number of pupils:** 442

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Gorsemoor Primary School is situated in the residential area of Heath Hayes, near Cannock.



"I have been very impressed with Espresso's ability to adopt a different and very cost-effective means of delivering media-rich services that suits our needs," concludes Howard Bagshaw.

Gorsemoor Primary School began subscribing to Espresso after the Staffordshire LEA chose them as a pilot school in 2001. "In that time we have seen the resource grow and grow", says Paul

Bennett, Head Teacher and ICT Coordinator. "We consider it to be excellent value for money when compared with the cost of curriculum-based software and the need to update this regularly."

Paul Bennett says that Espresso has become an indispensable part of teaching at his school. "Espresso has enabled the staff to teach ICT in a very 'real' way. Children can see links between skills taught in one curriculum area and their application in others. Espresso has improved both the staff and children's skills in all areas, particularly in skills applications."

The school has found it to be a resource they want to use more and more. "It is used several times daily and the resources are used in a variety of curriculum areas. It has certainly helped us make the most out of the investment we have made in ICT hardware. Our intention is to make the service available in all classrooms by the end of 2004."

### **Cornwall LEA**

**Method of delivery:** Satellite, broadband and CD Updates.

**Number of schools:**  
Nursery 2  
Primary 243  
Special Schools 4

Cornwall occupies the peninsula in the extreme south west of England. Its shape, landscape and limited road and rail network cause considerable rural isolation.

### ***Cornwall LEA***

Cornwall is one of the most sparsely populated counties in England, but even the remoteness of Cornwall's schools has not been a problem for the delivery of Espresso. Espresso delivers its weekly updates via satellite, CD update and broadband direct to each of the eight subscribing schools in the LEA where the Espresso service is being piloted.

"The fact that Espresso can be delivered using satellite technology is of course an advantage to us", explains Uta Wagemakers, County Advisor for ICT, Cornwall LEA. "It enables schools in the most remote locations imaginable to receive updates of

fresh teaching materials with ease. But, as more and more schools in Cornwall become connected to broadband, Cornwall is increasingly moving away from satellite delivery. Espresso worked closely with us to install the service at schools across the county and we have been highly impressed with the reliability of the updates. Espresso's excellent technical support team has also been a great help."

Uta Wagemakers continues, "Cornwall's geography presents the LEA with a unique set of challenges when it comes to communicating with its schools. When evaluating potential service suppliers, it was very important for the LEA to ensure that partners are able to meet the county's individual needs. Espresso has certainly achieved this."

"We first begun subscribing to Espresso in June of 2002," recalls Cheryl Masefield, ICT Coordinator at St. Cleer's Primary School.

"After attending a presentation by Espresso, I was convinced it was worth subscribing to. The immediate access it offers to fresh content is fantastic! The children love Espresso - the weekly updates, which we receive every Wednesday, is one of the highlights of their week.

Throughout the school, Espresso is used everyday. It is available in the ICT suite and all over the school on all other PCs. Espresso is so simple to navigate that all teachers,

### **St. Cleer County Primary School**

Well Lane  
Liskeard  
Cornwall  
PL14 5EA

Tel: 01579 342796  
Fax: 01579 340711

**ICT Coordinator:**  
Cheryl Mayfield

**Number of pupils:** 243

St. Cleer County Primary School is of average size with most of pupils come from the surrounding area.

### **Technical Guidelines**

Espresso has been produced to reside within the Local Area Network (LAN) of a school. It can be installed on a variety of platforms including:

- A dedicated Espresso server
- A generic cache or web server
- The school's own web server

Your school will make the best use of Espresso if it is running PCs over a network. Espresso recommends a 10/100Mbit switched network. Client PCs need a minimum specification of P133MHz, 32mb RAM and screen display of 800x600.

Updates can be delivered via:

- Internet connection – FTP/HTTP via Broadband or ISDN
- Satellite
- CD updates

As part of Espresso's implementation, a technical services team performs a comprehensive audit of your school's infrastructure. The team then works closely with your school technician and ICT Coordinator to complete a technical checklist. By understanding your specific technical infrastructure, Espresso can ensure the successful installation and ongoing delivery of video-rich content to your school.

however nervous about computers, are using it to teach other curriculum areas through ICT. All of the Espresso resources provided are utilised. In my book, that is fantastic value for money."

### **Other Ways to Meet your Needs ISDN**

Espresso updates can be delivered over an ISDN connection of 128 kbps. Depending on the speed of your connection, you can expect a time lag in the download (as you would accessing other Internet-related content). Successful schools receiving content this way have developed download schedules that are convenient for their them (such as overnight delivery) taking into account the connection speed and other internet commitments so as not to interrupt day-to-day school activity. In such cases, Espresso works with the school on a technical implementation plan.

### **CD Updates**

Some schools may not have an Internet connection or the ability to support downloads via satellite. In these cases, Espresso can distribute

CD-ROMs that automatically update the Espresso legacy content.

### **CD Installer**

The latest development at Espresso is the 'CD Installer', which is currently being implemented on the brand new Citizenship resources. The CD Installer is a program which, once installed on a school server, automatically collects from Espresso HQ and then continually checks for updates, downloading fresh content whenever it is available. It requires installation onto a web server by a network or IT technician. This results in cost benefits, as no Espresso technician will need to visit the school to get the service up and running.

### **Conclusion**

The three case studies above have illustrated how Espresso's weekly content updates can be delivered to schools via satellite, to schools without broadband Internet access by caching the updates on central server at the LEA, and direct to schools via broadband.

With nearly 1,000 subscribing schools in almost 50 LEAs across the UK, Espresso tailors its delivery methods to suit the individual needs of each school. Whether in the middle of a large city or in a remote rural location, all schools can receive the full, video-rich Espresso experience.

Working in partnership with schools to assess their individual needs and develop a delivery method and associated cost structure that suits them is at the heart of Espresso's philosophy.

*\*\*All Images taken at Gorsemoor Primary School, Staffordshire LEA\*\**

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