

# Case Study

## GTcentral helps Melbourne's Parade College to deliver its education technology strategy



Parade College, Melbourne, Australia

### Business Challenge

Home to 1800 students and 1530 families, Parade College is a dual campus Catholic boys' school, which since 1871 has sought innovative and effective ways of achieving best practice teaching and learning.

In 2007 Parade College commenced a three year strategy to become a leader in the use of information technology in education. The strategy was based on developing a scalable and reliable IT infrastructure and implementing classroom-based and administrative systems that would support the college in meeting its teaching and learning goals.

The existing IT infrastructure had proven unreliable in the past and the college was concerned that its new strategy could not be implemented. Parade College turned to GTcentral, a Melbourne-based IT solutions provider and education technology specialist, for assistance.

### Services Overview

The first task undertaken by GTcentral was a review of the college's existing ICT environment to assess its capacity to meet long-term goals. GTcentral worked with the college's leadership team over three days to review its ICT environment in line with ITIL best-practice, identifying key technology, performance and process issues. A detailed report was then prepared that prioritised

these issues for action as time, resources and budget permitted.

One of the college's main objectives was to provide staff, students and parents with access to a web-based student management and collaboration portal. However, the review uncovered that Parade's servers and network infrastructure were not capable of supporting a large number of internal and external users.

Before the college could embark on any major application projects network issues had to be addressed.

The first step involved the upgrade of ageing servers that had been the cause of a number of network bottlenecks. Further work included the replacement of an unreliable firewall and the enhancement of the existing ADSL Internet connection with a scalable wireless service to provide a fast, synchronous and fault-tolerant link to the College servers and Internet.

To replace the existing firewall, GTcentral deployed a WatchGuard Firebox® X5500e UTM that integrates a robust combination of application proxy firewall, VPN, intrusion prevention, gateway anti-virus, anti-spyware, anti-spam and URL filtering into a single appliance for comprehensive defences.

To ensure that the improvements to infrastructure would continue to support long-term goals, Parade College decided to engage GTcentral to operate and manage its IT infrastructure, moving to a managed service model. This required GTcentral to

deploy a fulltime team at Parade College to support day to day IT operations.

### Outcomes

- > Managed IT services model provides high reliability and availability of IT systems for the college.
- > Managed IT services model allows the college to focus on its mission to provide best practise in teaching and learning.
- > The college can rely on IT experts to deliver high priority projects. Projects completed include the integration of a new campus at Preston, the rollout of 350 new computers, and the delivery of eWorkspace, a new online portal that delivers considerable improvements in the college's collaboration and student management capabilities.

#### GTcentral:

Since 2006, GTcentral has provided specialist ICT solutions to the education sector applying industry best-practice to assist schools in meeting their education technology goals.

[www.gtcentral.com.au](http://www.gtcentral.com.au)

#### Images above from left to right

A Parade College student at a computer. An 'e-room' at Parade College. Students using computers in the classroom.



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