

ServerPilot

Summary Sheet



ServerPilot – the all-in-one data solution for education and business

Product Overview

Equinet's market-leading product – CachePilot – is used by more than 12,000 learning establishments in the UK for sophisticated caching, content delivery and web filtering. And this has been complemented over the years by many other specialised Equinet education products such as SecurePilot and more recently, BackupPilot.

Equinet's latest product, ServerPilot, seamlessly integrates all Equinet's product functions in one powerful unit. Not only is it an advanced cache and content server; it can be a fully automated backup device too, or an internal firewall for controlling access across multiple local networks, or a gateway firewall complete with VPN access, or, in fact, any of Equinet's products – all in one powerful appliance.

A Flexible Robust Appliance

Summary points – base unit

- Powerful server that supports many functions - just enable what you want
- Second drive can be easily inserted into an externally accessible caddy to enable future expansion
- Dynamic and configurable web caching greatly improves response times and enables web pages to be served at LAN speeds
- FTP server provides local Podcasting functionality
- Pre-loaded with content of your choice
- Fully integrates with most popular URL filtering systems
- Can integrate local Active Directory with URL filtering for seamless user-based filtering and logging
- On-board diagnostics of product and networks with alert functions
- Multiple logs ranging from diagnostics and bandwidth usage to Internet access

Summary points – options

- Advanced firewall for gateway and/or multi LAN support giving increased access controls and added WAN security
- Local backup of servers and PCs – fully automated and encrypted
- Backups compressed and mirrored to your own central site
- Secure offsite backup service available at competitive prices
- Easily restore data at LAN speeds, or from a mirror site for disaster recovery
- VPN support for secure access through the firewall to PCs, servers and resources on the school network
- Remote access gateway
- Webmail and calendaring functionality
- Multiple units can be centrally managed by ControlPilot
- Web access by users of multiple units can be centrally monitored by ReportPilot
- Available in 2U 19" rack or Cube

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Firewall and VPN

Equinet has been an established name in data security, encryption and firewalls for more than twelve years - long before it became well known in the education market. Its range of secure gateway products has been used by many thousands of organisations over the past decade or so, including the British Armed Forces. This certified advanced firewall functionality is also available on ServerPilot for secure local firewall operation (to prevent, for example, inter-school hacking when used as a gateway device) and control between local networks. The firewall also supports various flavours of VPN allowing access to PCs and Servers on the LAN for support purposes etc.

Bandwidth Optimisation

ServerPilot can deliver and automatically keep updated a plethora of pre-loaded e-learning content at LAN speeds – up to Gigabit rates - and can also deliver cached web pages at the same speeds too. In addition to being able to pre-cache and keep updated pre-planned and commonly-used web sites, any site browsed by a single person is dynamically cached and fed directly from ServerPilot to all others who wish to access it. Not only does this give the perception of amazingly fast Internet access to many pupils simultaneously, it also leaves your Internet connection free for other things, such as interacting with a Learning Environment or video conferencing etc.

Mirroring

ServerPilot's built-in Web Mirroring function allows sections of commonly visited sites to be mirrored and served directly from ServerPilot, and to be automatically updated on a regular basis. This function, which is totally transparent to the user, sits alongside ServerPilot's cache, keeping that free for usual caching functionality.

The FTP mirror and server functions allow non web-based files, such as Word documents, spreadsheets, virus signature updates and podcasts to also be automatically copied to, and served from, ServerPilot - locally.

Backup

One of the options available on ServerPilot is its sophisticated, but easily configured, file backup function – set it up once and just let it do its job; no more tape changes to worry about. The most important thing about backup is the *restore* element. A survey of 500 schools, carried out by Equinet, suggests that tape restores fail on more than 30% of occasions, and finding the right data to restore is a real issue. Additionally, copying data back from a tape is a very slow process. ServerPilot's backup facility is totally automatic, and makes finding the right data to restore very simple – directly from its second drive at high speed.

URL Filtering

ServerPilot also fully integrates at a local level with intelligent filtering systems such as Smoothwall Guardian, NetSweeper and SmartFilter giving even greater control over group or individual Internet access. When enabled, this will allow the configuring of individual and group filtering profiles on ServerPilot, along with the ability to instantly add sites to be blocked, or to unblock usually banned sites for specific users, at specific times. It can also integrate with an Active Directory server too, making Internet access even more controllable with the minimum of effort, down to individual user. A reporting product also enables simple logging, reporting and archiving of web access logs from multiple ServerPilots.

Cube Option

In addition to the new 390mm depth 2U 19" rack-mount enclosure, which fits the small wall-mount racks installed in many smaller schools, ServerPilot is also available in our standard cube enclosure.

