

ServerPilot for Education

Summary Sheet – January 2010



Mix-and-match Equinet products in one powerful unit!

Product Overview

Equinet's original market-leading education product – CachePilot – is used by more than 12,000 schools in the UK for sophisticated caching, content delivery and web filtering. Many have also upgraded to the more powerful CachePilot Plus model. Complementing CachePilot is a range of other Equinet products specifically developed for the education market such as SecurePilot, and more recently BackupPilot.

Being a flexible company, and working closely with LAs and RBCs, Equinet often provides bespoke functionality, which sometimes 'unofficially' combines other product features into their CachePilot. Well, we've now made that official. Equinet's ServerPilot, allows a mix-and-match of 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, in fact, any of Equinet's products – all in one box.

Summary points – base unit

- Powerful server that supports many functions - just mix-and-match
- 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
- Available in 2U 19" rack

Summary points – options

- Local backup of servers and PCs – fully automated and encrypted
- Backups compressed and mirrored to central site
- Easily restore data at LAN speeds, or from a mirror site for disaster recovery
- Accredited by Capita for SIMS backup and restore
- Advanced firewall for gateway and/or multi LAN support giving increased access controls and added WAN security
- 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
- Zone Integration Server for local integration with SIF is on its way

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Bandwidth Optimisation

ServerPilot can deliver and automatically keep updated a plethora of pre-loaded e-learning content, such as Espresso Primary and Secondary products, 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.

Caching and 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 suggests that tape restores fail on more than 30% of occasions, and finding the right data to restore is a real hassle (for full survey results email info@equinet.com). 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.

Where can I find more information?

URL Filtering

ServerPilot also fully integrates at a local level with 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 locally on ServerPilot, along with the ability to, for example, 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.

Firewall and VPN

Equinet has been an established name in data security, encryption and firewalls for more than ten years - long before it became well known in education. 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 school for support purposes etc.

SIF

Recent developments within Equinet have taken the company into the area of SIF, more specifically, the development of a local Zone Integration Server, which will result in ServerPilot's full integration with the UK Schools' Interoperability Framework in the near future.

And the list of functions will continue; if you have a requirement in mind, just let Equinet know.

Rack Option

ServerPilot is also available in a new 390mm depth 2U 19" rack-mount enclosure, which fits the small wall-mount racks installed in many schools.

