

NetSupport School v7

Supplier: NetSupport

Price: One user £74.10; ten users £312; 50 users £1330; 100 users £2186 (all exclude VAT)

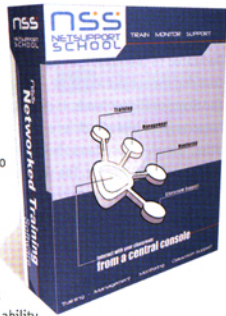
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FAMILIAR in many secondary schools, but not immediately obvious to most primaries, NetSupport School is in fact the underlying bedrock of Viglen's acclaimed Classlink network management system for schools. As secondaries and colleges continue to invest in networks, effective solutions to support these resources are becoming ever more critical. NetSupport School helps schools effectively manage their networked resources whilst improving the quality of training and tuition provided as well. It provides teachers and trainers with the ability to interact effortlessly with their students either on an individual, group or full classroom basis.



NetSupport School enables teachers/tutors to interact with learners in a variety of ways: They can remotely monitor learners' activities, open and close applications, distribute and collect assignments, lock screens, and even reboot or shutdown learners' computers. NSS also includes facilities to restrict the web sites and applications that can be accessed by learners. To assist teaching and learning, NSS can enable teachers/tutors to distribute notes, assignments and exams, and collect them again within seconds. Test and exams created using the built-in test designer can be marked by the system, allowing for automatic reporting on results. The test console even enables tutors to run and monitor learners' progress in online examinations that are stored in a separate password protected database. I know of no other network management software with this feature. In a nut shell NSS offers:

- Remote control
- Instant surveys
- Student testing
- Application control module
- Web control module
- Send & collect work
- Help requests
- Broadcast video
- File distribution

So what's in it for teachers? These three (easily achievable) tasks say it all: A teacher can blank all the screens at the beginning of the lesson to ensure the students' attention. They can then demonstrate the task to be completed

on everyone's screen and distribute the worksheets and files required for the task. Lastly, they can set the pupils an online assessment and enjoy the fact that it is automatically marked. Can't be bad! Similarly, in terms of general supervision, a teacher can view what was happening on the computers in areas such as the sixth form centre and an unsupervised ICT facility during lunch and break times. The technicians can monitor use and shut down or send someone a message if they are not using the machines appropriately.

Above all, what I particularly like is that NSS runs on all Microsoft Windows operating systems, has few system requirements, is not server based, and is easy to install and use. Indeed, it is the ideal application for computer-based training, group work, monitoring, examinations and one-to-one instruction. Any school investing in NetSupport School will find that in a very short time it has become one of its most valuable teaching and network management tools. Thoroughly recommended. ●

Chris Drage