

Shropshire County Council

- The Client** Shropshire is England's largest inland county with around 40,000 students in over 160 schools.
- The Need** Shropshire Local Authority required a system to enable teachers to collaborate, share best practice and deliver engaging content rich lessons, whilst reducing lesson planning time. The requirement was to provide functionality and suitable interfaces for students of all ages as well as teaching staff and other stakeholders, enabling staff to simply allocate work and resources such as lesson plans, learner objectives and digital content. A key requirement was provision of single sign-on access to content, MIS and e-learning applications including SCORM content and other software and systems. The solution needed to incorporate communication tools such as email, podcasts, RSS feeds, blogs, wikis, surveys and notice boards, whilst offering students a secure learning space and easy to use e-portfolio building tool.
- The Solution** Using Microsoft SharePoint, this solution includes the integration of the central active directory service with the schools' own individual active directories. This provides the ability to centrally manage transition of students and staff between primary and secondary schools. Another benefit is the ability for users to work from multiple learning establishments without the need for multiple system identities.
- The TALMOS Lesson Management System (VLE) reduces lesson planning time whilst enabling teachers to share best practice, extending collaboration and helping teachers to deliver engaging lessons. A unique feature of the TALMOS Learning Management System (VLE) is the school timetable-based delivery interface - enabling all staff to simply launch lesson plans and allocate work and digital content straight from their timetable.
- The Shropshire Learning Gateway is designed and built on a highly resilient Dell hardware platform. The solution is designed for high availability through both the use of resilient hardware and clustering technologies for its operating systems and server based applications. The platform utilises software from Microsoft including Windows Server, Exchange, ISA, SharePoint, SQL and OCS.
- Core has made considerable use of virtualisation technology to provide over 180 server instances for the centralised services.
- The entire platform is proactively monitored and managed from Core's Network Operations Centre in Brough.
- The Result** The Shropshire Learning Gateway provides services for 40,000 Students as well as teachers, parents, governors, and other stakeholders. It provides authority wide addressing and naming conventions, designed to ensure uniqueness across the Authority and central AD services provided to both the authority and all of its schools.

Shropshire County Council and Core Education and Consulting Solutions continue to work together to develop an exciting and stimulating Learning Gateway.