Today, more and more homework makes use of IT. Users often want to continue work at home that they started at school, or may even want to use school applications. The challenge for schools is how they make all of this available, easy and secure.

No more excuses
Providing your pupils with access to school resources from home means that they have what they need to learn at a time that suits them. And can remove some of the excuses:
- I forgot to copy the files for working at home
- I lost my USB memory stick
- I didn’t have the right application

RM Education’s solution to this is CC4 Anywhere, which provides access to desktops, files and applications from outside of school. Or, if you just want remote access to documents, RM Portico provides this.

A trusted supplier
RM Education has been providing schools with network solutions for over 15 years. We have a specific focus on education which we bring to our networking whether that be in-school access or out-of-school access.

We understand:
- The need to enable your school community to continue working and learning beyond the school gates.
- The technologies required to make this possible, what products are available and how to integrate these to create the right solutions for you.
- The complexities around software licensing and we are able to advise you on these.
- We also understand school concerns surrounding security, access and control.

Want to know more? To get a free quote for CC4 or advice on your network…

Call our team on
08450 700300

Visit
www.rm.com/cc4anywhere

Email
primarysales@rm.com
secondarysales@rm.com
Powered by Citrix® XenApp™ 6, CC4 Anywhere is a private cloud solution that provides secure access to Community Connect 4 networks from anywhere with Internet access from a huge range of devices. Windows® PCs, Linux and Windows miniBooks, Apple Macs, iPad, thin clients and mobile technology such as Windows and Android smartphones and iPhones are all compatible with CC4 Anywhere.

**With CC4 Anywhere, you can:**

**Support anytime, anywhere learning**
Teachers and learners can get to their CC4 desktop, applications and all their files from their own devices, whether they’re at home, on the bus or the train, or in another country!

**Increase learners’ access to ICT**
Curriculum software is installed and runs on the CC4 Anywhere server. This means learners can use it without needing to have it installed on their own device, which is great for homework!

**Improve your ICT sustainability**
CC4 Anywhere enables you to make use of thin client devices, which have longer lifespans and consume less power than PCs and laptops. You can also re-use legacy hardware that no longer performs adequately as a rich client, as the processing is done on the server, both of which reduce the amount you waste.

Built-in power management and energy-saving features help you reduce energy consumption; for example, servers can automatically power down in times of low usage and then power up again as they’re needed.

**Reduce your total cost of ownership**
By making use of thin client devices, which cost less and last longer than PCs and laptops, and extending the lifespan of existing computers.

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**Comparison Chart**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>RM Portico</th>
<th>CC4 Anywhere</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access and manage my documents from any location on any device?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access and manage shared documents from any location on any device?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access my school applications from any location on any device?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Securely access my school-based MIS from any location on any device?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access my Managed Desktop Environment from any location on any device?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access a desktop environment from thin clients within my school?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost?</td>
<td>£</td>
<td>££</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CC4 Anywhere also offers:**

**Better performance**
Citrix’s Independent Computing Architecture (ICA) connection provides a better user experience over equivalent bandwidths than competing solutions. HDX compression technology provides a better multimedia experience and comprehensive load balancing optimises performance. All of this means a wider range of applications can be used on CC4 Anywhere than on competing solutions.

**Secure remote access**
A CC4 Anywhere solution includes a Citrix Access Gateway hardware appliance, which uses SSL encryption to secure remote connections, keeping users’ data safe.

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RM Portico allows users to access their mapped drives and network shares from any browser, on any device, from anywhere inside or outside school.

Using RM Portico, pupils at home can get on with their homework without the need for USB data storage devices to transfer files to and from school. When they’ve been asked to finish off a piece of work that they’ve started in class, they can access their network areas and download the work they’ve started. Using the applications on their home PC, they can complete their homework and when they’re finished, upload it to the network ready for the next day’s lesson.

To use RM Portico, pupils don’t need any special software on their PCs. They just need a browser to access the RM Portico website and download the files they want to work on.

www.rm.com/cc4anywhere
The Abbey School

case study

The Abbey School is an independent day school for girls in Reading, Berkshire. There are 1050 pupils aged from 3-18 years old and the school aims to be at the forefront of ICT in education.

Recently, the school was facing the challenge of how to provide secure remote access to staff and students to enable them to work from home. They chose CC4 Anywhere as it provides a consistent user experience, giving them remote access to the same CC4 desktop they get in school as well as their applications and shared areas, and because it’s so easy to use. One of the students explains “It’s just so simple, there’s no big set of instructions and you can find whatever you need to just as if you were at school.”

The staff and students have all been amazed by the positive impact CC4 Anywhere has had on the way they work. Elaine Cook, Head of Maths says “CC4 Anywhere has really helped students with their Maths coursework. They don’t have the specialist software at home, so it’s enabled them to solve tasks they wouldn’t have been able to do otherwise. It has made a huge difference and the students have enjoyed being able to produce better work because of it.”

Everyone at the school has found that CC4 Anywhere has made their lives much easier. One student remarked “Instead of thinking that maybe I’m going to lose my work, or if I email it, it won’t be in the right format, I know that having CC4 Anywhere means it’s going to be completely fine!”

Head to www.rm.com/cc4anywhere/casestudy to watch the video case study.

Jargon buster

Two-factor authentication: A type of authentication that requires you to provide two different kinds of evidence that you are who you say you are. The first evidence is normally your network password. The second may be a code generated by an electronic token, a smartcard or similar authentication.

Virtual Private Network (VPN): A secure network connection that is created across a public network to allow secure access to school resources such as network shared areas.

Firewall: Software or hardware that permits or denies specific network transmissions based on a configurable set of rules. Most computers include software-based firewalls as part of the operating system. You will also have a firewall either as part of your school network or from your ISP that governs which type of communications are allowed in and out of your school network.

Internet Service Provider (ISP): A company that provides internet access. If you get your connection through RM Education, then RM Education is your ISP.

Data Encryption: Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) and Transport Layer Security (TLS) are encryption protocols that protect data whilst it is being transmitted. A common example of the use of TLS and SSL is for secure access to a website over HTTPS (Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure) instead of the less secure HTTP.

Remote Access Gateways: Secure network devices that protect the remote access into your school by encrypting the data. An example is the Citrix Access Gateway (CAG), which is used with CC4 Anywhere and Citrix XenApp.

Desktop Virtualization: The use of software to abstract the operating system (OS), applications and associated data from the user’s device. There are several types of desktop virtualization; the main two being Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) and Remote Desktop Services (RDS).

- Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI): With VDI each user connects to a separate instance of a desktop OS (e.g. Windows® XP or Windows® 7). The user session is isolated by virtual infrastructure (e.g. VMware ESX) and each session has allocated resources (memory, processor & disk). VDI can provide a good user experience, but as it takes up more server power, it comes at a higher cost than RDS.

- Remote Desktop Services (RDS): RDS uses users share a single OS (e.g. Windows Server 2003 or 2008) and so share the resources on the server. RDS requires less hardware and software resources than VDI, but may not give as good a user experience, particularly for multimedia work. RDS is also referred to as Terminal Services or Shared Remote Desktops.

ADSL: An Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line service is one where the download speed of Internet connection is greater than the upload speed. ADSL may have download speeds of up to 2Mb, 8Mb (also known as ADSL Max), or 20Mb (also known as ADSL 2+).

- Download Speed: The speed at which data is transferred from the Internet to you. Higher speeds are useful for watching media content, such as high-definition video.

- Upload Speed: The upload speed of your broadband connection is the speed that data is transferred from you to the Internet. Higher speeds are required for providing remote access to school resources.

www.rm.com/cc4anywhere
Top 6 things to consider when choosing remote access solutions:

1. Who and What?
Who in your school will require remote access and what will they need to access? For example:
- Pupils require access to their school work from their network home drive or from network shared areas. Both RM Portico and CC4 Anywhere will provide this.
- Teachers and senior managers may require access to lesson materials, sensitive information or specific applications including the school Management Information System (MIS). CC4 Anywhere can provide extremely secure access as the data never leaves the school. Teachers can engage with the MIS and complete their work on their own laptops, interacting directly with the server in the school.

By considering your school community’s needs you will be able to evaluate the different products that are available and select the right solutions to meet these needs, which may mean different products for different groups of users.

2. Clients Types: From what?
Once you know who requires access to what, you will need to consider what types of devices they may be using to access the school resources and select products that will best meet your requirement. For example:
CC4 Anywhere includes client support for:
- Operating systems: Windows® 7, Windows Vista®, and Windows® XP, Windows® Phone 7, Apple® Mac® OS X, iOS (iPad, iPhone and iPod), Android, Blackberry OS, Linux, and more…
RM Portico includes support for:
- Operating systems: Windows® 7, Windows Vista®, and Windows® XP, Windows® Phone 7, Android – 3.0.0 and above, Blackberry®, iOS (iPhone® and iPad), and more…
- Browsers: Internet Explorer® 7, 8 and 9, Google Chrome, Safari®, Mozilla Firefox®, and more…

3. Application Licensing
If you are planning to use a solution that enables you to access your school’s applications remotely (such as CC4 Anywhere) we can advise you on your licensing requirements to ensure you are correctly licensed to use the software at home as well as in school.

4. Security: Is the data secure?
The Data Protection Act requires all organisations, including schools, to ensure that all data is stored securely, and this includes when that data is accessed remotely by staff or students.

Secure communication between your client devices and the school is essential to ensure that users’ data cannot be accessed or diverted in transit. CC4 Anywhere/Citrix XenApp and RM Portico use data encryption to protect the communication over HTTPS.

CC4 Anywhere/Citrix XenApp can be configured to enable users to securely access their documents at home without those documents ever leaving the school. This is achieved by viewing or editing documents using applications that are running on a server within the school. With this way of working, there is no risk of data being intercepted or stolen.

RM Portico removes the need (and risk) of transporting files via laptops or USB devices: users can simply download files onto their home PC and then upload them again on completion of their work.

5. School Connectivity: How fast?
When evaluating remote access solutions you will also need to consider your school’s connectivity to the Internet. This consideration needs to take into account the number of users within your school who will need to access school resources at the same time remotely through your school’s Internet connection.

With CC4 Anywhere/Citrix XenApp, you could assume each remote connection will use an average of between 50Kbit and 100Kbit of your school upload speed as a rough estimate.

6. Cloud solutions?
If you are considering using a cloud solution for hosting your user data, then some key things to consider are:
- Where is the data being stored, and does this conform to data protection regulations?
- Where are users normally accessing the data from? If it’s normally from within school, then it might be more efficient to store the data within school and provide a remote access solution for when they need access outside school. This sort of solution is often referred to as a private cloud.

Call our team on: 08450 700300
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