



**REDBRIDGE
INSTITUTE**
of adult education

London Borough of

Redbridge



Challenges in delivering IT services across diverse locations

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Overview

What is Adult Education and what does a typical provider look like?

The approach to IT we have taken at Redbridge

Future IT challenges for the ACL sector?

Redbridge Institute of Adult Education Facts

- 3.5 million income
- FE/ACL/Targeted project funding/fees
- 300 staff (over 90% part time)
- 1200 courses
- 7-8000 learners
- 14,000 enrolments per year
- Typical course 50 GLH's
- 63 venues

Is this your image of ACL?



ACL's are now funded by LSC

Funding is highly political

Every pound spent is under immense scrutiny.

Providers operate in a target driven culture.

ACL is expected to tackle employability and
social

inclusion issues e.g.

NEETs

Widening participation



Borough profile is mixed –
affluence/deprivation

As an ACL provider we are expected to take
education out to the community, particularly
the

so called ‘hard to reach’

We do this via partnership working, extensive
use of out centres, mobile equipment
(laptops)

NI DC, FL, FL I N projects

Approach to IT

Small organisation with very modest resources

Ambitious plans for developing IT and e-learning

Answer: Keep systems as simple as possible

Microsoft campus licence is very cost effective

Microsoft skill-set is easier to find

Standard hardware wherever possible, three year replacement, all databases SQL Server 2005

IT Systems at Redbridge

IT services now in house

470 computers all running XP SP2 except a few testing Vista

24 windows 2003 x64 R2 servers

Host our own Moodle VLE, Website and intranet

Lowest specification PC Athlon 3000 1 Gb RAM
17" TFT

Currently purchasing Core2Duo 2.4GHz(E6600) 2
Gb RAM either 19 or 22 inch monitors

All teaching rooms in main site have computers
and smartboards

10 megabit JANET connection installed in 2004

JANET connection comes in to main site (which hosts 50% provision)

10 other sites have some form of internet connection

These are not so easy to manage



In main site some excellent resources for teaching, fast internet, high spec PC's, smartboards in all rooms.

Most out-centres have no connectivity and teach in the same way they have for decades
Are we offering a two tier service?

Solutions

ACL's have to review their use of venues

Prices and reliability of mobile/wireless internet technologies will come down

Share connectivity through other networks (schools council, social services)

We can continue to use private isp's for low cost ADSL connections

My own preferred longer term solution would be for an LMN/JANET facility for networking lots of small sites.