Case Study

Central Bedfordshire Council commenced work on a project in the summer of 2012 that would see their 12 local libraries undergo a modern refurbishment comprising of new 3M RFID Self Service Kiosks, furniture, redecoration, and an entire network cabling infrastructure.

Central Bedfordshire Council took a strategic approach to each library re-fit, ensuring that all identified works were completed in one allocated shutdown period, therefore ensuring minimal disruption to the public.

A common refurbishment template was then applied to each library, which would see a combination of new fixtures and fittings; RFID self-service kiosks; new mechanical electrical and data infrastructure, including heating and lighting; implementation of new modern layouts, including read and relax areas; and of course re-decoration throughout.

Shaun Machan, Libraries Project Manager, Central Bedfordshire Council, comments "We planned a 1-3 week closure for each library. This timeframe tied in with any loaning period to minimise disruption. We also made sure that no charges would be applied during this period for late returns. Our library members also had the option of using any other library in the Bedfordshire area."

Prior to the refurbishments, the libraries were beginning to look a little dated and tired. Much of the data cabling had been fitted retrospectively to the customer services help desks with multiple cables contained in trunking running along the wall to the desk.

A significant part of the refurbishment included a full network infrastructure installation to allow connectivity to both the public and library staff computers in and around the 12 library buildings, connecting a legacy public area network as well as the council's corporate network.

Datanet Systems, via a competitive tendering process, were the chosen installation company to take on the new network infrastructure across the libraries. Working amongst several other trades on site, Datanet were tasked with installing a number of data outlets in each library and its administration offices and cabling them back to a secure comms rack, which connected to two segmented networks (Public and Corporate).

Neil Nicholls of Datanet Systems comments "With the childrens and adults computer areas, the library management systems and the admin offices, we were looking at up to 70 points in the larger libraries and 40 in the smaller libraries".

The network infrastructure installed was a HellermannTyton Category 5e system, using Global patch panels, AlphaSnap outlets and Category 5e cable.

Shaun Machan and Neil Nicholls agreed "The decision to go with a Category 5e was based largely on the amount of data and type of usage the network would experience. A category 5e system would provide excellent performance now and in the future".

Neil Nicholls added "The same contractors moved from site to site, which was a major benefit as we developed a good understanding of working around each other. It also helped with getting certain details right, such as socket and outlet arrangements and keeping the consistency across the multiple sites".

Starting at Houghton Regis library in 2012 and finishing at Shefford Library in 2014, the 12 library refurbishments were completed on time and on budget. Most importantly this modernisation programme has been a big success and has resulted in the Library Service receiving a very positive response from its customers.

Shaun Machan concludes "Our libraries now have a combination of a new, modern look and feel that also includes a focused read and relax area; RFID self-service kiosks; motion sensor lighting; CCTV; future-proofed heating, electrical, and data infrastructure, which complements all our traditional library services. We are already looking at providing additional services including meeting rooms with Wi-Fi and LED TV's for presentations, and new public PCs and larger network bandwidth to cope with additional demands and expectations. These refurbishments have been designed and carried out to provide the best possible service and we hope we can continue to build on this solid foundation and to meet present and future customer expectations."

Case Study

About HellermannTyton

HellermannTyton is an established leader in the design and manufacture of innovative network infrastructure solutions serving both the broadband and data centre markets.

HellermannTyton offers a complete range of fibre optic closures for Trunk and Access/FTTH applications incorporating the market leading patented CablelokTM mechanical seal. HellermannTyton is also a leader in pre-terminated fibre and copper connectivity with the patented RapidNetTM solution, used in both telecoms and data centre environments.

HellermannTyton's network connectivity activities are part of the global HellermannTyton Group PLC, listed on the London Stock Exchange (HTY), serving the communications, construction, electrical, automotive and aerospace markets with operations in 34 countries.

For more information visit www.htdata.co.uk or www.hellermanntyton.com

About Datanet Systems

Datanet Systems Limited specialise in network cabling infrastructures. These networks are all installed to the EIA / TIA industry standards for category 5e, Cat6 and Cat6a. Our team is approved by the structured cabling standard HellermannTyton.