



Technology switch for Ipswich ADC KRONE solution solves problem of aging infrastructure.

CASE STUDY

CHALLENGE

The Ipswich City Council's aging technology was no longer able to keep up with the demands of the Council's more than 1500 workers. The Council was facing a rapid server count increase, an increase in environmental complexity and constant renovations that resulted in countless moves, adds and changes. The Council had to choose between a bandaid fix for the old infrastructure or a completely new infrastructure.

STRATEGY

The Council decided to build a brand new data centre incorporating best-of-breed solutions and building in the capacity to handle future expansions. After reviewing a number of possible solutions, the Council settled on ADC KRONE's Category 6A CopperTen solution with Patch-by-Exception functionality.

RESULTS

This solution is very neat and well documented, making it easy to identify the data paths. Its flexibility has been key during refurbishments, greatly simplifying the work involved in all those moves, adds and changes. It has provided adequate growth capacity for the future. It is functional, sustainable and scalable while saving time, materials and money for the Council.





CUSTOMER PROFILE

Ipswich City Council

- The City of Ipswich was proclaimed in 1904 following a rich history that began in the 1850s.
- Located one hour from the Port of Brisbane in South East Queensland, Ipswich has a population of 155,000 (and growing).
- Ipswich is the oldest provincial city in Queensland and has more than 6,000 heritage-listed sites.
- Ipswich City Council employs more than 1500 staff.

Replacing aging technology

The Ipswich City Council is a future-focused organisation, so it was no surprise when councillors decided it was time to upgrade the Council's two computer rooms. Based in an aging building where renovations had become the norm, these computer rooms were no longer able to keep up with the demands of the Council's more than 1500 workers.



The newer of the two rooms also had unreliable air conditioning and back up power, as well as having no cable management system, making it difficult to trace cables.

"We had aging technology in place but we were facing challenges including a rapid server count increase, an increase in environmental complexity and constant renovations and refits that resulted in countless moves, adds and changes," said the Council's senior infrastructure support specialist, Brian Youngs. "We needed to decide whether we would implement a bandaid fix for the old infrastructure, or whether we should build a new data centre and correct all these issues."

It was decided to build a brand new data centre incorporating best-of-breed solutions and building in the capacity to handle future expansions.

Patch by Exception solution was best fit

"We needed a scalable, solid solution that would be functional and sustainable," explained Brian. "We had been exposed to various vendors' products over the years so we conducted a pros and cons analysis. ADC KRONE's CopperTen Cat 6_A solution was, without a doubt, the best fit for our needs."

ADC KRONE's Patch-by-Exception CopperTen solution is perfect for an organisation whose physical environment is in constant flux because it makes moves, adds and changes much faster and simpler. CopperTen also offers superior cable management, an important consideration for Brian and his team as they had struggled to find an effective cable management solution in the past.

Just like the Council's previous RJ45 solution, CopperTen would allow anyone authorised within the organisation to change the positions of the patch cords. The CopperTen solution, however, provides cost savings by utilising standard Category 6_A cable from the horizontal cable used in the rest of the building for the four-pair jumper cables connecting the first and second verticals. Because the system is hardwired with jumpers, there is no need to purchase patch cords. The CopperTen 20-pair modules' centre-port design makes 'look both ways' testing possible, simplifying the testing process.

The CopperTen cable management system means no patch cords or jumpered cables are visible from the front, eliminating the untidy spaghetti of cords and reducing the chance of accidental disconnections. The system is hard wired from network equipment to work area, making it a secure, reliable, high performance infrastructure – all exactly according to the Council’s requirements.

Future planning from the start

Commenting on the implementation process, Brian said: “The main data centre’s CopperTen solution was properly designed and installed right from the

Below: Justin White (ADC KRONE) and Brian Youngs (Ipswich City Council) review the labelling records



Above: Brian Youngs runs a performance test on the network
Below: The CopperTen Patch-by-Exception system



CASE STUDY

get-go, with scalability built in, so we had a great deal of flexibility as to how it would be utilised.”

There were two aspects to the implementation. The first was the refit of old buildings, which contained legacy cabling products that needed to be replaced with ADC KRONE Category 6_A cabling. Brian and his team had to wait until refurbishments commenced for each area before they could remove the legacy products and install the CopperTen solution with consolidation points.

“This change-over process is quite labour intensive, but once it’s done, future fit-outs are much less of a problem,” said Brian. “The pain is experienced only once.”

The second aspect of the implementation is the installation of ADC KRONE Category 6_A cabling plus the CopperTen Patch-by-Exception solution and consolidation points into new areas and buildings.

“The consolidation points were designed with enough capacity to cater for growth and changes to each area without the need to run additional cables,” explained Brian. “This positions us very well to adopt new technologies well into the future without needing to upgrade our infrastructure.”

Simplified solution with capacity for growth

“This solution is very neat and well documented, making it easy to identify the data paths,” said Brian. “Its flexibility has been key during



Patch-by-Exception termination with an ADC KRONE Sensor Tool

refurbishments, greatly simplifying the work involved in all those moves, adds and changes. Because we have a remote CopperTen unit set up as a consolidation point connected to the distribution CopperTen unit in the computer room, we know we have adequate growth capacity for the future, which is important.

“The data centre uses a Category 6_A solution that is functional, sustainable and scalable,” he continued. “For the distribution side to users’ workstations I cannot say enough good things about this solution. It has been a lifesaver during times of change, allowing for a lot of flexibility and minimum rework during times of renovations and refits. All the rework done during refurbishment is between the consolidation point and the workstation, not the workstation back to the distribution point. This saves us time, materials and, ultimately, money. In future all of Council’s major refurbishments will be done using this solution.”



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