



IRW Systems Limited
concept to realisation



Microsoft
GOLD CERTIFIED
Partner



Student
Loans Company



Microsoft
SQL Server



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The Student Loans Company—Software Development

CUSTOMER COMMENT:

"With such a diverse and geographical spread of partners, we established an Extranet to create a central hub for more frequent, consistent and ultimately, more effective communications."

David Thomson Project manager at the Student Loans Company

THE CUSTOMER: The Student Loans Company is a government controlled organisation and part of a unique partnership working closely with up to 700 UK colleges, universities, and other educational institutions and authorities.

THE REQUIREMENT: The diversity and geographical spread of educational centres and departments indicated there was a requirement to provide a central hub to improve communications around the organisation and associated educational networks

THE SOLUTION: The Extranet was designed to provide all authorised users with access to structured content and interactive features in several key areas. In addition, several areas are accessible to only designated users. Each key area provides access to categorised articles, documents, searching and retrieval facilities and discussion forum. The site was built on Microsoft Windows 2000, SQL Server 2000 and Internet Information Server using an industry-standard, three-tier approach to system design. User and content information for the site is stored in a robust and highly scalable SQL Server database. An administration section was provided within the Extranet, allowing all site access to be controlled. Discussion Forums were also provided to allow users to discuss policies and documents on the Extranet, allowing authors to take this feedback into account in any future revisions of these documents.

BUSINESS BENEFITS: In the Clients view, until the Extranet was rolled out to the various disparate education authority groups, the full impact and benefits of the development was not fully appreciated by the intended recipients. Subsequently however without exception, the benefits of sharing, managing and publishing information over the Internet has been fully realised and the project has been accepted as a huge success by all of the parties concerned. Suggestions for enhancements to the site are now being received from various areas. Providing the various Local authority groups with their own content manageable sections has been a major factor contributing to the success of the implementation. All project problem resolution was handled and concluded through the IRW Solutions Ltd helpdesk system to ensure visibility and clarity of project management IRW continue to host and support the UK wide extranet.