IT Vision Offers Schools Their First Ever Opportunity To Record And Track All Their Assets

Photography and interview with end-user available

IT Vision, a specialist in web based asset discovery and software licensing, is the first company to offer UK schools a simple way of tracking where their assets are located and how much they are worth. Parago Mobile from IT Vision (www.itvision.net) enables schools to record and manage every single asset in the school, from computers in the ICT suite to kettles in the staff room.

Keeping track of what valuable equipment a school has and where it is located is no easy task. ICT is particularly difficult to manage, with items such as laptops, digital cameras and wireless devices constantly being moved from classroom to classroom and even taken outside of the school buildings. However, having an up to date audit and asset inventory is crucial – especially in the event of fire or theft where schools rely on insurance claims to recuperate their losses.

Parago Mobile enables schools to bar code every asset in the building. Using a handheld PDA device or smart phone which connects remotely to the Parago database, technicians can record the bar codes and enter the asset information into the database. Users can also download asset information from the main database onto the handheld PDA which can easily be transported around the school. As a result, the user can perform an audit of all the organisation's equipment whilst walking around the buildings, from the main school reception to more remote locations such as the sports hall and even the school's tool shed!

Parago Mobile is designed to support technicians working across multiple locations, enabling them to record and track assets without the need for a fixed or single network. From fire extinguishers in the corridors to Bunsen burners in the chemistry lab, all bar coded assets are presented visually in a 3D icon based interface.

Steve Monks, Head Teacher at Sinfin School commented: "In March this year, our school caught fire. Twenty three classrooms were burnt down, including two ICT rooms and the server room. As with many schools, our ICT equipment was spread around the school and we had no way of knowing exactly what was in the classrooms at the time of the fire. Teachers and support staff have literally spent hundreds of hours on a room by room basis trying to determine and recuperate what they have lost. Although work and software tracking information had been backed up should the server crash, we had no system in place to protect the data if the server was completely destroyed."

Steve continued: "Had all of our assets been bar coded using Parago Mobile we would have known exactly what had been lost, what the value was and what software licences we needed to replace. Having such a system in place would have made a huge difference to us both in terms of time and cost. "

Tim Roots, Director of Parago commented: "We have developed Parago Mobile in response to a customer's request for a system that will manage all of a school's assets – not just the ICT based ones. All the

data is web-based and stored securely offsite, ensuring that the information cannot be lost, even if the whole school burns down. As the example of Sinfin School shows, asset management is more than just complying to regulations. It is about protecting your school's assets in the event of fire or theft and being able to recuperate those assets quickly and easily through insurance claims. Suffering a fire is stressful enough for schools, without the additional burden of trawling through paper invoices and purchase orders to prove ownership of items lost."

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