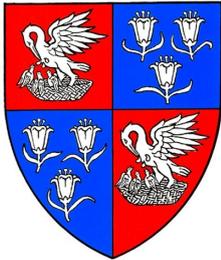


Case Study



Corpus Christi College, Cambridge achieves improved cyber resilience and 100% visibility of its network with C-STEM and Forescout

Sector: Education
Device Visibility and Control

Corpus Christi College, part of the University of Cambridge, is one of the oldest university colleges. During the summer, it has a high number of international students and throughout the year, they have many visitors and host numerous conferences. With the ever-increasing use of IT within education, along with a wide range of users demanding internet access, the importance of a secure and safe network has never been more imperative.

“My experience of working with C-STEM has been good. They have been professional and flexible throughout their engagement, working closely with us to ensure that our requirements were met.”

Ian Yates
Information Services and Technologies Manager
Corpus Christi College
Cambridge

The Challenges

Part of the role of the IT department is to keep the college’s IT secure, while facilitating the requirements of the students and staff. In addition, they deal with the ICT infrastructure of the college including admissions, conferences and the back office environment.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) is part of everyday life in higher education and Johnathan Coe, Senior Systems Engineer at the college commented *“We allow students to bring any devices they require into the college as it’s their home... and we allow them to connect these to our network, which causes a certain amount of problems...”*

Another challenge is that student equipment joining the network can be completely lacking in cyber security software or the software is out of date. Students also commonly download programmes from unsafe sites, so there is a constant barrage of viruses hitting the system.

The college had a purpose built but outdated Network Access Control (NAC) system, which the college was looking to replace. It was originally installed 14 years ago, giving visibility to the network, but not much else and therefore was no longer fit for purpose.



The Solution

The IT team were looking for a solution that would meet the current and future needs of their organisation whilst allowing them flexibility. They reviewed various NAC solutions on the market, with the main priority being finding a good fit for their existing technology which was affordable. After a thorough evaluation they chose C-STEM* to deploy Forescout CounterACT** as it gave them the cost effective visibility they required plus many additional benefits. According to Coe, the value that the CounterACT combined with C-STEM's expertise *"blew the competition out of the water"*.

C-STEM were recommended to Corpus Christi College by Forescout, one of their partners, due to their prior experience in similar university deployments, making them an ideal choice.

C-STEM's vast knowledge and experience in device visibility and control helped the college to refine its brief and was able to highlight additional added value. Andrew Willmott, C-STEM's R & D engineer commented *"using our knowledge of Forescout, we were able to make use of the open integration module which ensured that we were able to configure the switches to the level the college required."*

C-STEM worked with the college's IT team to fully understand and qualify the objectives. They then installed the Forescout CounterACT, ensuring that the implementation went smoothly, aligned to the agreed success criteria.

Business outcomes and impact to Corpus Christi College

- ✓ **Asset management** - Real time auditing & reporting
- ✓ **Device compliance** - Peace of mind risk management and control for non-corporate devices
- ✓ **Network access control** - Sustainable effectiveness in protecting against continually changing threat landscapes
- ✓ **Network segmentation**— Open interoperability, safeguarding new, legacy and custom built technology investments
- ✓ **Incident response** - Streamlined and seamless Cyber Resilience

"The outward facing impact of the Forescout has not been huge, however the impact in the department has been" states Coe. *"Before, things were getting missed and now everything is streamlined and seamless thanks to the visibility and automation we get from the Forescout."*

About C-STEM and Forescout CounterACT

*C-STEM are an accredited and experienced Forescout Professional Services partner. They use industry leading technologies, combined with their highly specialist expertise to enable organisations to fully leverage maximum value from their investments.

**The Forescout CounterACT is an agentless solution which offers the unique ability to see devices instantly as they connect to the network. It orchestrates and controls information-sharing amongst other existing security tools, which allows organisations to tackle cyber resilience more efficiently.

CounterACT combined with C-STEM's expertise *"blew the competition out of the water."*

"The installation of the Forescout has had a huge impact on the department. It has given us peace of mind and has made things easier."

"C-STEM helped us to define the initial brief and made the deployment process simple."

Johnathan Coe
Systems Engineer
Corpus Christi College
Cambridge

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visibility for
yourself**

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