

Kanaka *Success Story:*

Iona Presentation College



Background

Iona Presentation College is a Catholic school for girls located in Mosman Park, a suburb of Perth, Western Australia. Founded by an order of nuns originally from Ireland, the college has been in operation for more than a century.

Iona Presentation College offers a broad curriculum from the Australian school years 7 through 12, emphasizing the pursuit of excellence and academic rigor. In addition to the normal disciplines promoting mathematics, literacy, and physical well-being, the college places a high emphasis on foreign languages, music and the arts, and information technology.

This emphasis on information technology includes the support of an ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) department tasked with the provisioning of student and faculty computers, providing network access and security, and maintaining a network of Novell servers deployed to meet the increasing storage needs of 1,000 students and faculty.

The Problem

A recent curriculum update at Iona initiated the ICT department's deployment of Apple Macintosh computers. The initial rollout was to the college's 90 faculty members, followed later by a deployment to a number of the college's students.

But despite everything that the college gained through the rollout of the new Macs and the remarkable Mac OS X operating system, what it lost in terms of access to its Novell network-stored data was deemed unacceptable. That's because Novell does not develop a Macintosh client. With 200 Macintosh computers needing access to Novell network-stored data, it was up to the ICT manager, Tom Dudek, and his team to get the problem solved.

Tom first looked into configuring the access using internal means, but soon determined that he didn't have the time or patience to immerse his team into not only learning how to work with the Apple File Protocol (AFP), but also mounting individual volumes and extending the Novell eDirectory schema.

Iona Presentation College *(Continued)*

Tom and his team then evaluated the NetWare Client for Mac OS X from Prosoft, but found that the software was cumbersome to use and did not offer all of the functionality that Iona needed. Furthermore, the Prosoft software did not integrate well with the Mac OS X login process. It was clear to Tom and the rest of the team that they needed to find a better solution.

Discovering Kanaka

It was on a conference call with technicians from Apple Australia that Tom first heard the word “Kanaka” and learned that it was a product developed by Condrey Corporation.

The Australian technicians, like their Apple counterparts in other parts of the world, have been recommending Kanaka as a Novell network access solution for the Mac OS X operating system since 2005, when Condrey Corporation had worked with the Apple Directory Services Engineering group in developing the solution.

How Kanaka Works

Kanaka is a Macintosh workstation plug-in that, through a single password login process, simplifies authentication to Novell eDirectory along with access to a user’s network home directory and collaborative storage. The plug-in requires users to enter valid eDirectory credentials via the Mac OS X Login Window in order to log in and gain access to the workstation and any storage resources that are made available to them.

As an identity-based product, Kanaka utilizes Novell eDirectory to view network user and collaborative storage attributes that pertain to a user, and it then mounts the storage resources accordingly.

While logging in to the Mac OS X workstation, the user is simultaneously authenticated to eDirectory through a Novell Simple or Universal password. From eDirectory, Kanaka then retrieves identity information specific to the user, including his or her home directory and collaborative storage attributes.

Upon retrieving these attributes, the plug-in converts them from their native format into a URL format that is needed by Mac OS X to mount the storage

resource. Depending on the Kanaka configuration, the URL format can be AFP or CIFS/SMB.

The process for mounting collaborative storage resources, as well as eDirectory Storage Location Objects, is the same as the process for mounting user home directories.

Evaluation and Deployment

Tom and his team spent a couple of months formally evaluating Kanaka. The evaluation included the participation of a handful of faculty members in order to get their feedback. After a week of evaluation, most members of the team were already convinced that Kanaka was the solution that they were looking for.

When asked how the deployment went, Tom says that it was “relatively straightforward”; the reason that they took a longer time than average to deploy the product was because they wanted to ensure that the product would be robust enough to offer its users the stability that they were accustomed to.

Tom said that the product did not disappoint. He further stated that they utilized the Condrey Corporation support group during the evaluation and the subsequent deployment, and despite the large time zone difference, the support group was able to respond quickly with their deployment questions. “Customer support was very responsive,” remarks Dudek. “We’d usually send a query in the afternoon, and in the morning, we’d have the answer waiting for us in an e-mail.”

Conclusion

Thanks to Kanaka, along with the combined efforts of Tom’s team and the Condrey Corporation support group, the students and faculty at Iona Presentation College are finding even more value in their new Macs by being granted access to their network home directories and all other network directories to which they have been given rights, at the point at which they log in to their computers—all with a single password.

“We have been very happy with Kanaka and our relationship with Condrey Corporation,” Dudek remarks, “including their willingness to look into some

feature requests we've submitted." He adds, "We look forward to working with Condrey Corporation for a long time."

About Condrey Corporation

Condrey Corporation develops identity-based software that solves network challenges pertaining to user storage, access, and file sharing.. A variety of products developed for the Microsoft Windows, Linux, Macintosh, and Novell network platforms automate user storage management tasks and expand network access and file sharing capabilities, while dramatically reducing management costs.

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