



## CULFORD SCHOOL

### SOLVES THEIR CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT ISSUE

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

##### CUSTOMER

Culford School

##### PROBLEM

The potential solution of creating a new user account for each subject being assessed in an environment that already has hundreds of individual students accounts quickly becomes a significant administrative overhead.

##### SOLUTION

A solution that allows the school to retain a single student account and simply modify it to control access to students' exams areas and applications via a combination of group policy objects and file permissions.

##### PRODUCTS

UMRA Forms

##### RESULT

Be able to reliably control what the students have access to - flexibly and quickly - meeting the requirements of exam board. Without the administrative overhead and associated complications caused by the requirement to involve IT staff.

Culford is an independent school for boys and girls aged between 3 and 18. Along with thousands of other schools, Culford was faced with the issue of effectively managing GCSE controlled assessments. Controlled assessment is a set of controls, introduced by the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA) to ensure the validity and reliability of coursework and to enable assessors to confidently authenticate candidates' work. From September 2009 controlled assessment replaced coursework for all new GCSE subjects with internal assessment. Schools have had to find a suitable solution provide a secure method for pupils to store work during controlled assessment lessons that would automatically prevent out of class access.

"It was starting to look as though we would have to provide teachers of GCSE sets with a memory stick for every pupil for each subject that could be handed out at the start of each lesson and then collected in at the end. The prospect of hundreds of memory sticks around school and the logistics of managing this filled me with horror." Said Adrian Edgar, Culford's IT Director.

#### CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT STUDENT ACCOUNT ISSUES

The general consensus among educational IT managers is that little consideration was given to the practicalities of IT based controlled assessments when specifying what students can and cannot do and exactly how the environment and restrictions should be applied. The potential solution of creating a new user account for each subject being assessed in an environment that already has hundreds of individual students accounts quickly becomes a significant administrative overhead. Additional issues relate to restricting the user account to meet the requirements of various exam boards. In most cases these accounts should be denied access to email and internet and have only a restricted MS Office menu.

#### GROUP POLICY OBJECTS AND FILE PERMISSIONS

Culford School was looking for a solution that would allow the school to retain a single student account and simply modify it as necessary to control access to students' exams areas and applications via a combination of group policy objects and file permissions. "UMRA Forms allows us to provide a secure interface for teaching staff to switch on access to exam folders in an easy intuitive way. This means they can reliably control what the students have access to - flexibly and quickly - meeting the requirements of exam board without the administrative overhead and associated complications caused by the requirement to involve IT staff at the beginning and end of each exam" said Adrian Edgar.



**“UMRA FORMS ALLOWS US TO PROVIDE A SECURE INTERFACE FOR TEACHING STAFF TO SWITCH ON ACCESS TO EXAM FOLDERS IN AN EASY INTUITIVE WAY. THIS MEANS THEY CAN RELIABLY CONTROL WHAT THE STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO MEETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF EXAM BOARD.”**

ADRIAN EDGAR, IT DIRECTOR FOR CULFORD SCHOOL

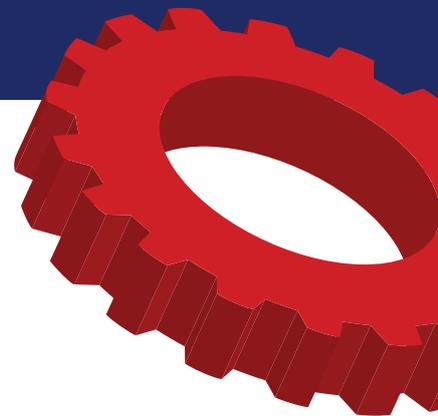
### **SEPERATE OU FOR CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT**

UMRA works within an OU for controlled assessment that contains an exam account for each student and an AD group for each exam - for instance Year 6 Geography. Each exam account has a home area, with the path specified in AD. Teachers need to grant access to these exam folders at the start of every controlled assessment class and deny access at the end.

With UMRA, the teacher has access to a simple form that displays a list of exam classes and can select the appropriate class with a single click. In the background UMRA collects the user accounts of the exam group selected, scans each home directory for the relevant folder and sets the NTFS permissions on the home folder to allow access. At the end of the class, the teacher reverses the process, again with a single click, that sets the NTFS to Deny Access on the student account.

### **RESULT**

Culford Schools now has an automated system that supports all the security requirements for controlled assessments. UMRA's keeps a log file that records all the relevant information of the controlled assessment classes that can be used to satisfy all auditing requirements.



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