

LEARNING SYSTEMS PLATFORM FOR UPDATED TRAINING AT THE NATIONAL GUARD SIGNALS SCHOOL

Datacentre



End User Computing & Mobility



Networking & security



Over 400 employees

Nationwide communications system

British communications company

GPT is a British communications company operating in Saudi Arabia. They are the prime contractor for the Saudi Arabian National Guard's Nationwide Communications System, employing over 400 people to provide operation and maintenance services as well as training.

The Challenge

GPT was looking to update its systems and processes to realise the benefits of modern technology. The team were struggling with outdated working practices, with limited technology and a paper-based approach to training. They wanted to make training more efficient and accessible, saving time and money, and providing students and instructors with a better experience.

The Solution

Softcat was awarded the contract after a competitive tender process, to design and establish a series of systems that collectively became known as the Learning Platform. This included datacentre infrastructure, networking and security, end-user devices, digital signage, and modern classroom technologies, as well as a multitude of BAU software/systems. Softcat would be responsible for implementing bespoke system policies and integrating them with the current system. Training would also be delivered to ensure adoption was possible.

Softcat set up the Learning Platform very quickly, with external subcontractors working to keep up with the pace of Softcat's installation. In addition to the initial set up, Softcat experts continue to remain on hand to talk through any issues that arise and provide the best advice.

The Benefits

The solution was delivered to support 776 concurrent users (220 of which are Virtual/VDI). We have already seen hundreds of students and instructors benefitting from the newly implemented technologies, with the number still growing. The Learning Platform gives a more efficient, easier way to access and deliver training, providing a bespoke training solution that is fit for purpose and designed to meet future requirements. The design allows simple modular growth to support our long-term strategy of over 4,000 concurrent students.

GPT's Manager of Technology Enhanced Learning reported that the system, "has created a massive amount of jealousy across the National Guard and military establishments. They want the same, more of it, and now!"

Softcat has implemented these technologies to enable growth and development of the system, in preparation for the next phase of building a complete technical institute.

Why Softcat?

Softcat delivered a technical solution that went beyond the initial brief, planning for future growth and development, but at a competitive price. GPT added that, "As it now turns out, Softcat employees go well above expectations and always deliver on time and beyond our expectations. I cannot compliment Softcat enough for the solution they have provided and the on-going support. They work constantly to keep things purring and we have no down time of the systems thanks to their collective hard work."

Highlights

- Developed a bespoke training solution
- Provides a modern platform for 700+ users to access and deliver training
- Support simple and modular growth to 4,000 concurrent users

Solution Highlights

- Modern training solution
- Secure platform for Government client
- Over 700 concurrent users
- Best of breed products from: Cisco, HPE, VMware, Microsoft, RES, F5, Solarwinds, Samsung, Epson, HP Inc & VEEAM
- Simple modular expansion to support future requirements