

Creating new possibilities through advanced technology ...

Wyboston Lakes, located midway between Cambridge and Milton Keynes, has long been regarded as one of the best learning, training and conferencing environments in the UK, but more recently its investment in technology has given it a vibrant edge, taking it in to a league of its own.

The customer

The East of England Broadband Network (E2BN) is one of 10 Regional Broadband Consortia (RBCs) set up by the Government to provide effective broadband services throughout England.

Harnessing the full potential of ICT and broadband connectivity, and drawing on good practice and collective expertise, E2BN continues to develop, share and deliver high quality educational opportunities in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Luton, Milton Keynes, Norfolk, Peterborough, Southend-on-Sea, Suffolk and Thurrock.

The Challenge

E2BN hold an annual two-day conference which regularly attracts in excess of 300 delegates; a mix of head teachers, teachers and education experts. The event is complex in both its audience and its content. There needs to be large open space for exhibitors to set up and for the delegates to be able move freely and mix in a relaxed environment. The accommodation needs to be to a good standard as does the food and levels of service. Most importantly and key to winning the business, the broadband capability had to be of sufficient quality and strength to allow for connectivity and streaming without failure or interruption.

The Solution

For the 10th consecutive year, E2BN chose The Executive Centre as its ideal conference venue. Residential delegates had been delighted with the relaxed ambience of the Centre and were highly complementary about the standard of catering and the executive bedrooms. The lounge area was perfect for the exhibitors to display their products and mingle with the delegates.

E2BN were impressed with the site-wide broadband service of 200 Mbps – which is at least double the strength offered by most other venues. At the same time, Wyboston Lakes' audio-visual systems set them at the forefront of HDMI presentation technology. Other aspects included advanced techniques for troubleshooting connectivity problems remotely and achieving effective multi-broadcasting. The conference presenters can communicate their messages and attendees can benefit from crisp imagery, clear sound and stunning colour.

The on-site technical team managed and delivered everything regarding this complex technology. During this event attended by over 300 delegates, with 70 exhibitors on site, 792 concurrent internet connections were running without any slowdown in speed or degradation in quality. During the event the total download was 142GB.

Feedback

“Over the last 15 years E2BN have used many venues for conferences, workshops and training. Being an educational broadband provider, it is vitally important we have robust, reliable and high capacity broadband and technology provision. Businesses, and more importantly education, cannot operate in this day and age without it.”

“It never ceases to amaze me how many conference centres and hotels have poor provision with appalling setup for accessing the internet which is, after all, the 5th utility.”

“E2BN have been using Wyboston Lakes Executive Centre and Training Centre for over a decade now. In that time they have listened to our needs and upgraded their internet provision to give the service we need. We have over 300 delegates (all with ipads, phones and laptops connecting to the internet) with an additional 70 exhibitors plus numerous workshops running, all using the internet or streaming live events and it works.”

“Fundamentally, we’re not having to continually re-log-in and the setup can be configured to meet our exacting requirements; if a problem does occur it is addressed promptly.”

“The technology is part of the service, as it should be, we do not pay extra, nor do our delegates and exhibitors and that means a lot to the success of a good event.”

“I can honestly say that the internet access at Wyboston Lakes is the best service I have encountered over the years compared to the many exhibition, training and conference centres.”

Chris Kastel
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