

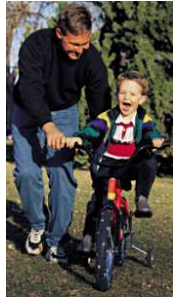
CHILDREN CAN USE THE INTERNET WITHOUT ANY RISK



## VULNERABLE CHILDREN ARE PROTECTED WHEN USING THE INTERNET

In 2002, The West Lothian Council initiated the *Learning with Care* project, which provides computers and Internet access to all children in foster and residential care. A major goal of the project was to ensure that looked-after children can use PCs, and in doing so, access the Internet with safety. Prior to the inception of the Learning with Care project, the children's use of PCs could only be done through their local schools and libraries.

Now, because of state-of-the-art Internet-protection systems, these young people can safely use the Internet for information and communication. And, thanks to the Learning with Care project, and the safe-access technology it provides, looked-after children can benefit from protected access to the Internet.



### Interview - Jennifer Scott

Acting Senior Manager  
(Children & Families)

**West Lothian Council**  
UK Council of the Year  
in 2006

### Input - Garry Hart

Director

**Sika Solutions**  
www.sika-sol.co.uk



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Jennifer Scott

### KEEPING UP WITH TECHNOLOGY AND KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE

As West Lothian Council looked to upgrade its Learning with Care solution in 2005, it became apparent that all of the looked-after children were regularly using the Internet by surfing the web and using email. It was imperative that children do not access unsuitable material. Making sure potential paedophiles cannot contact children was obviously a matter of the highest importance. "Looked-after children are some of the most vulnerable and damaged children in our society," stated Scott.

To accomplish its objective, The Council needed to review the quality of the services available from third parties – services such as PC support, Internet access, and filtering and help desk services.

It was obvious that the equipment then in use was inadequate and must be replaced. So the Council set out to review available services. One of the main objectives was to reduce dependency on multiple third-party suppliers, which can make maintenance unduly complicated. The Council also wanted a guarantee of the best technology while, at the same time, realize cost savings. The Council looked for a one-stop-shop partner which could provide the required services, and which would have the knowledge to propose the best and most cost-effective technology.

### UNIFIED THREAT MANAGEMENT AT ITS BEST

The West Lothian Council turn to Sika Solutions for the answer. Sika Solutions' has expertise in providing clients with innovative and cost-effective business solutions through the efficient deployment and integration of information technology. Garry Hart, Director of Sika Solutions, chose NETASQ's Unified Threat Management (UTM) solution for the West Lothian Council. UTM appliances are designed to meet the security needs of all types of network structures. "The all-in-one functionality of NETASQ's solution is a major benefit to our customers," said Hart. NETASQ appliances include all the necessary functions for the effective protection of small, mid-sized and large enterprises, as well as service providers and remote users. NETASQ's UTM solution comprises a broad range of protective systems including intrusion prevention in real-time, network and application firewalls, advanced content filtering, embedded anti-virus, anti-spam, anti-spyware, URL filtering, IPSEC and SSL VPN, and bandwidth management.

West Lothian Council found Sika Solutions to be the only organisation capable of recommending and supplying the total solution to its specifications, and doing so within the time frame required. "Sika Solutions demonstrated a clear understanding of the sensitivity necessary to operate successfully with the looked-after community," stated Scott.



"We now possess an internet filtering system that is owned and managed by the Council's helpdesk team. So, any sensitive issues and queries are kept in-house. Sika Solutions underpin our system and our helpdesk by providing 'back office' technical support and manufacturer warranties to ensure that a robust and consistent service is provided 24/7," added Scott.

**DISPERSED ORGANISATION, REMOTE MANAGEMENT, FLEXIBILITY**

The solution consists of a VPN connection to over 75 individual users in and around the West Lothian Community. The users are monitored and managed remotely with the tools provided in NETASQ's solution. An IPSec VPN client is used to authenticate users and thereby restrict or allow access to specific areas of the World Wide Web for the children in care. NETASQ's URL filtering engine integrates a parental control web filter ensuring that undesirable content is not accessed.

"Sika Solutions has delivered the NETASQ system that has met all the goals of the project. The project has been delivered to time and budget, and throughout the duration of the project, all stakeholders have been appraised of project milestones, achievements and changes." stated Scott.

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**Garry Hart**

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**Jennifer Scott**



- CLIENT BENEFITS INCLUDE:**
- Secure solutions that enable looked-after children to benefit from modern technology
  - Provides peace of mind that children are protected and safe from offensive or undesirable websites
  - Ensures that "playing" online stays fun
  - An "All-in-one box" that provides complete UTM
  - Technology and tools that enable NETASQ partner Sika Solutions to deliver, install and manage the solutions
  - Significant cost savings compared with previous solution

**ABOUT NETASQ**  
NETASQ was established in 1998 and is the leading European vendor of unified security solutions for businesses of all sizes: SMEs-SMIs, large enterprises and government bodies. The company designs and markets Unified Threat Management (UTM) appliances based on its own ASQ (Active Security Qualification), a unique real-time intrusion prevention technology, with network and application firewall features, IPSec and SSL VPN, content filtering, anti-virus, anti-spam, anti-spyware, and secure VoIP. Living up to its reputation as a technological innovator, NETASQ thus provides all the essential security functions, built into a single appliance. Its ASQ technology is embedded by default in all products, guaranteeing clients optimum protection through the combination of several innovative analyses. ASQ tangibly delivers on the promise of zero-day protection security.

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