



Greater use of wireless networks is helping students in Hartlepool

In a bid to make the internet accessible to every student in the north east of England, Aerohive Networks is helping Hartlepool Borough Council implement *LearnNet*, its town-wide e-learning network.

Aerohive Networks says that it has wirelessly-enabled more than 50 locations throughout Hartlepool, including schools, community youth centres, and libraries.

The intention is for every student with a laptop or personal mobile device to be able to access the internet and online curriculum applications from any wireless hotspot in the town at any time of the day.

Locations outside of the 39 local schools include Hartlepool's Maritime Experience museum, 10 community youth centres, and an outdoor residential centre. Each location was chosen because of its popularity with students.

According to Aerohive, *LearnNet* has proved so popular with schools and

students that requests are being made for more access points.

Aerohive's controller-less WLAN solution enables teachers and students to access the e-learning network using their own establishments' *Private Pre-Shared Key (PPSK)*, an authentication feature within Aerohive's access points. This means that if a *PPSK* is compromised at one establishment, it is only that specific key that needs to be modified – the rest of the network is not affected by the change.

Aerohive adds that another benefit of its solution is its ability to grant temporary access to *LearnNet* visitors who only require access to the network for a short period of time. After they have completed their assignment, access is revoked.

The concept behind *LearnNet* was to create a network that would meet the needs of disadvantaged students who could not afford to pay for a home-based internet connection. ■