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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MERLIN Partner Program

MERLIN has developed a service package that translates into major cost savings for schools in Manitoba by bundling multiple services together and leveraging the purchasing power of all schools in Manitoba. This is a unique opportunity for schools divisions to join together working collaboratively with MERLIN to facilitate technology solutions common to all school divisions.

The MERLIN Partner Program includes tangible benefits that translate into savings on software, content filtering, Internet and other features. Additional savings are realized through:

- Improved reporting structures
- Increased collaborative opportunities
- Ability to use consistent versions of applications across the division
- Easier technical and training support
- Application of best practices
- Enhanced license compliancy
- Easier administration of software – easier reporting and reduced liability
- Long term educational, technical and financial planning

The Program is designed to allow every school in Manitoba to have access to the latest desktop software versions and support services increasing efficiency, saving time and money. Support and participation from vendors has been very encouraging. MERLIN is excited about the possibilities and opportunities that this will provide as the package continues to grow.

Please review the MERLIN Partner Program package and feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

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OVERVIEW

MERLIN offers an innovative program to public schools which includes a bundled service package that translates into major cost savings and increased efficiency for Manitoba schools. Components of the Partner Program are:

Licensing

- **Microsoft desktop licensing for an unlimited number of school division-owned computers for the following software:**
 - Most current versions of:
 - Microsoft Office Enterprise
 - Windows Desktop Operating System (OS) upgrade
 - Core Client Access Licenses (CALs) which includes CALs for Windows server, Exchange server, SharePoint server and Systems Management server
 - 5 Windows Server Standard Edition Licenses
 - Work-at-Home Rights for teachers and administration staff
- **Enterprise anti-virus software**
 - Includes a Home Use Purchase Program for staff and students

Services

- **Unlimited access to Internet bandwidth**
- **Monitoring / reporting of Internet traffic (Packet shaping)**
- **Access to high-speed direct connect networks: CA*net4 through MRnet**
- **Spyware / Malware filtering for web traffic**
- **Web content filtering**
- **Email anti-spam /anti-virus scanning**
- **Enterprise Firewall and Intrusion Prevention**
- **Web and Internet Domain Name Services hosting**
- **Hosted SharePoint on MERLIN's servers for students**
- **Discounted Rates on Long Distance, Cell Phone and Blackberry plans**
- **Consulting**
 - MERLIN staff will work with school divisions to help procure the best connection possible to MERLIN to take advantage of unlimited Internet bandwidth.
 - MERLIN will provide an impartial review of school division strategic technology plans.
- **Microsoft E-Learning courses**
- **Bulk Hardware Purchasing Program**

MERLIN provides the above services for school division use. This includes all instructional and administrative desktops.



Microsoft desktop licensing for an unlimited number of school division-owned computers for the following software:

- **Microsoft Office Enterprise Edition** (Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, Access, Publisher, OneNote, InfoPath, Groove, Communicator)
- **Ability to upgrade workstations to latest Microsoft Windows Professional Operating System**
- **Client Access Licenses for Windows Server, Exchange Server, SharePoint Server, and System Management Server**

Benefits include:

- **Easy compliance.** Because all of the school division's computers and users are covered throughout the term, it's easy to be sure that the division is fully licensed for use of the included products.
- **Low administration.** Eliminates the need to track licenses for individual products on every computer.
- **Current technology.** Microsoft is continually delivering new versions of its software. Users are licensed to run the most current version of the software products included in the agreement, and divisions automatically receive media for products that upgrade during the agreement term.
- **Simple budgeting and purchasing.** One annual payment covers all of the products.
- **Cost savings on new work station purchases** – Allows you to buy basic home versions and automatically upgrade.
- **Excellent value.** By standardizing on a platform of products, the total cost of software ownership is reduced while productivity and access to current technology are increased.
- **Access to TechNet Managed Newsgroups and TechNet Plus subscription media.** This ensures that Information Technology (IT) staff have resources available to quickly address their technical issues. TechNet Plus gives IT professionals access to answers directly from the people who made the product. TechNet Plus includes:
 - Unlimited technical support in over 100 TechNet Managed Newsgroups.
 - TechNet Plus subscription media, featuring resources like the Microsoft Knowledge Base, software updates, utilities, technical training, and how-to articles.
 - Additional premium TechNet Plus benefits, including full-version evaluation software without time limits, pre-release versions of Microsoft products, two complimentary technical support incidents, and access to TechNet Plus Subscriber Online Services.
- **Work-at-Home Rights.** Teachers and administrative staff have the right to use a copy of products on either a home or portable computer for work-related purposes. By extending these rights, the division accepts responsibility for communicating the terms and conditions to the staff. This includes keeping accurate records of software use and distribution and ensuring that your staff understand the stated terms and conditions.



Enterprise Anti-virus Software

Antivirus software consists of computer programs that can identify, prevent and eliminate computer viruses and other malicious software (malware). The Partner Program currently utilizes Panda Software's EnterpriSecure with TruPrevent™ Technologies for all division desktop computers and servers.

EnterpriSecure with TruPrevent™ Technologies provides combined protection against all kinds of Internet threats across multiple network layers (firewall, e-mail servers, file servers, and client desktops) as well as multiple network platforms including Windows, Novell and Linux. In addition, EnterpriSecure with TruPrevent™ Technologies protects both inbound and outbound communication from malware threats; offers hassle free centralized administration through the AdminSecure console, and offers free 24/7 technical support.

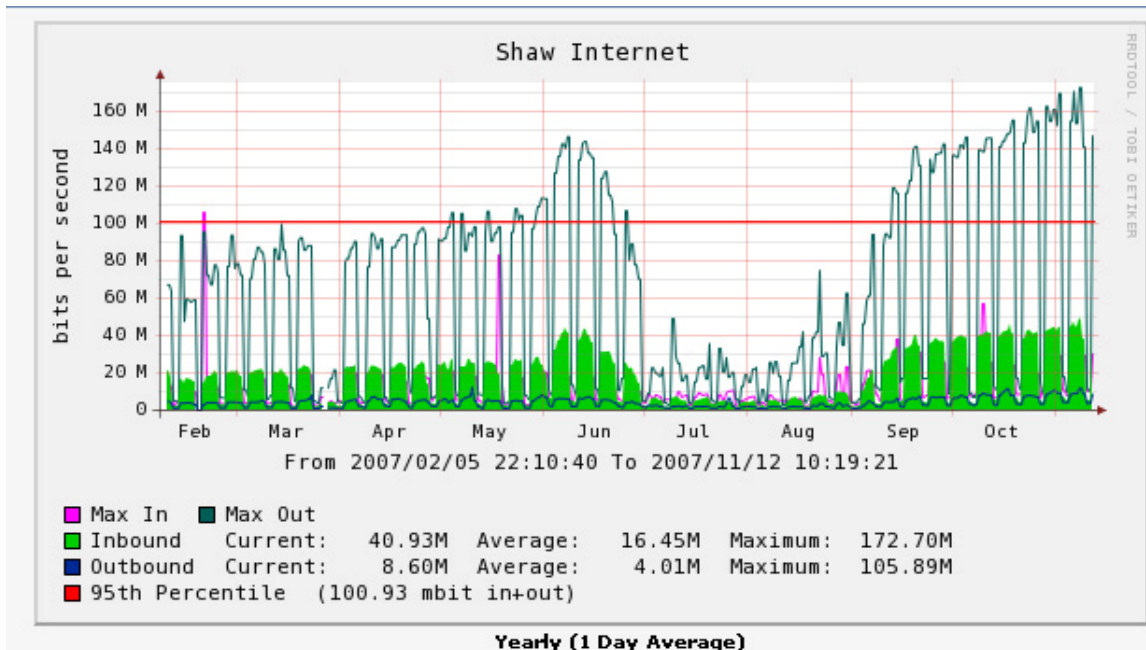
Panda has also extended a [Home Use Purchase Program](#) for both staff and students of participating school divisions. Prices start at \$2.00 per year.



Access to Internet bandwidth

MERLIN Partners receive unlimited access to Internet bandwidth once they connect to MERLIN. MERLIN is working with school divisions and ISPs to provide cost effective solutions to connect to MERLIN.

- Consultation in procuring the best possible connection to MERLIN for Partners. Some examples of connectivity options to MERLIN are:
 - Dark fibre to the University of Manitoba and Brandon University
 - Provincial Data Network (PDN)
 - Access through a local service provider (MTS Allstream, TeraGo Networks, WiBand Communications, Westman Communications Group, I-NetLink, RFNow Inc., MRNet and Shaw Communications Inc.)
- Caching of network traffic to facilitate more rapid access to frequently used websites
- Restriction of non-educational traffic (with partner consultation). Examples: illegal activities, non-school related business or other inappropriate uses.
- Online access to historical usage data of the Partner's connection to MERLIN where possible. (see below)





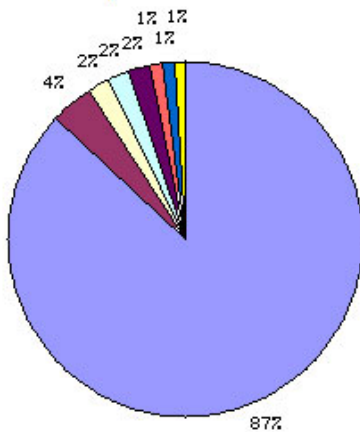
Monitoring / reporting of Internet traffic (Packet shaping)

Monitoring, managing and reporting of Internet traffic will be provided upon request along with blocking of inappropriate applications. Examples include peer to peer file sharing and instant messaging. An Internet connection is required to MERLIN to take advantage of this service. For example, this service would allow a school division to block Kazaa traffic, which could potentially be consuming internet bandwidth.

Sample report of the top 10 applications utilized by a school division / school.

Top 10 Classes Report for Inbound Class

Top 10 Classes



Class Name	Average Rate (bps)	(%)
1. Internet (HTTP)	122M	87
2. Bulk Data Transfer	5.8M	4
3. Real Time Streaming Protocol (RTSP)	2.6M	2
4. Flash Video	2.5M	2
5. Encrypted Internet Traffic (SSL)	2.2M	2
6. Windows Media Player	1.5M	1
7. Email (SMTP)	784k	1
8. RealPlayer Content Streaming	458k	<1
9. Quicktime	439k	<1
10. YouTube Website Content	410k	<1
All other classes	1.5M	1

period: 1-hour, 08-Nov-2007 10:00 to 08-Nov-2007 11:00



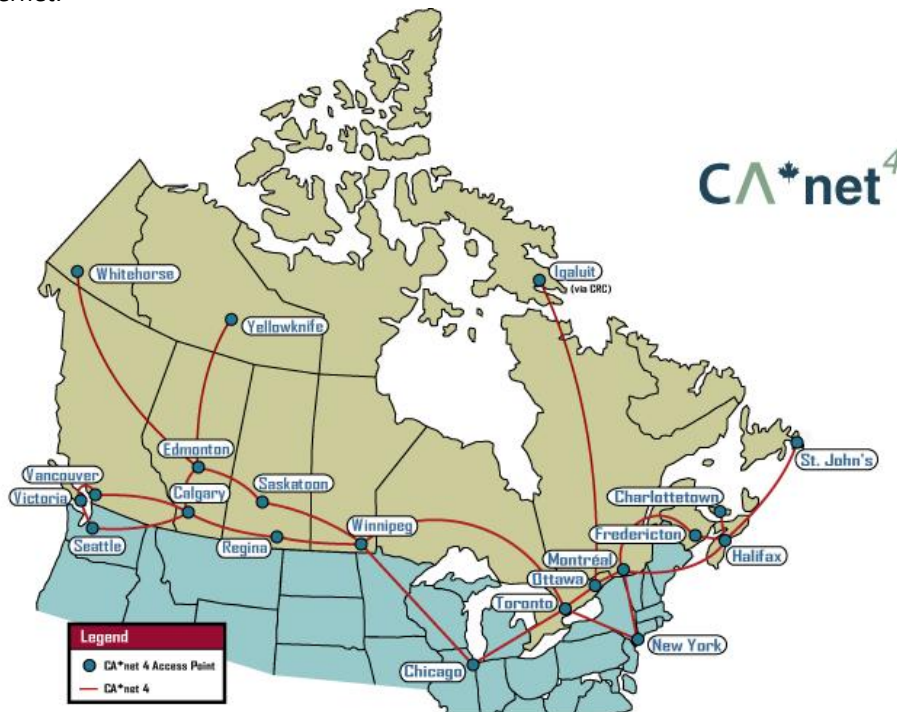
Access to high-speed direct connect networks:

Canada National Optical Internet Education and Research Network (CA*net4) and Manitoba Regional Network (MRnet)

MRnet is a consortium of private and public sector research and development organizations dedicated to the advancement of broadband networking and network applications. It provides access within the province to CA*net 4. CA*net4 interconnects the provincial research networks, and through them universities, research centres, government research laboratories, schools, and other eligible sites, both with each other and with international peer networks.

MERLIN is now an official member of MRnet. MRnet is Manitoba's connection to very high-speed (at least 1 Gb/s) education and research networks including CA*net 4. This connection is now available at no extra charge to schools that use the MERLIN Internet connection and will provide access to a growing inventory of broadband content.

The research networks are especially useful for collaboration with schools in other jurisdictions (outside Manitoba) and accessing research facilities such as NASA at speeds far faster than generally provided by the Internet.





Spyware / Malware filtering for web traffic

Spyware is any software that aids in gathering information about a person or organization through the user's Internet connection without their knowledge or permission usually to relay the information to advertisers or other interested parties. Spyware will keep track of websites and log your keystrokes to determine passwords and login information and can take over some of the operations of your computer.

MERLIN's spyware filter is an integrated anti-spyware gateway solution that blocks spyware from getting into your organization. It combines preventative, reactive, and proactive measures to form a complete anti-spyware solution.

Here's what MERLIN's spyware filter can do for your school division:

- Stops spyware downloads (including drive-by downloads)
- Blocks network attacks
- Blocks Peer-to-Peer traffic
 - Blocks spyware downloads and offensive websites
 - Blocks exploitation of application and website vulnerabilities
- Detects and blocks spyware access to the Internet





Web content filtering

Content filtering is the blocking or filtering of undesirable Internet content. Local school division administrators can be delegated to control what content is filtered.

Web content filtering can prohibit access to the following:

- Objectionable words in an Internet search engine
- Offensive Internet websites
- Offensive Internet FTP sites
- Internet sites or newsgroups with objectionable content

Benefits of local administration:

- Allows administrators to create their own categories of blocked sites (“black list”)
- Allows administrators to create their own lists of acceptable sites (“white list”)
- Allows differentiated Internet access criteria for groups of users

On-line usage reports per subgroup are available and updated on a monthly basis. Minimum filter level blocks the following categories: Child Pornography, Malicious Code/Virus, Phishing, Pornography/Adult Content, and Spyware. MERLIN Partners will be assigned a user-id and password for local administration.

Category
Redirect URL
Filter Options

Category Profile ?

Group>IP> >Category Profile

Group: MERLINOffice Current Profile: Custom Profile

Available Filter Levels

Custom Profile v

Minimum Filtering Level

Child Pornography v

Malicious Code/Virus v

Phishing v

Rule Details

Category	Pass	Allow	Warn	Block
Category Groups				
Adult Content				✔
Bandwidth				
Image Servers & Image Search Engines		✔		
Internet Radio		✔		✔
Peer-to-peer/File Sharing		✔		
Streaming Media		✔		
Video Sharing	✔			
VoIP		✔		
Web Based Storage		✔		
Business/Investments				
Employment	✔			
Financial Institution		✔		
General Business	✔			
Online Trading/Brokerage				✔

Uncategorized Sites Pass Block

Apply



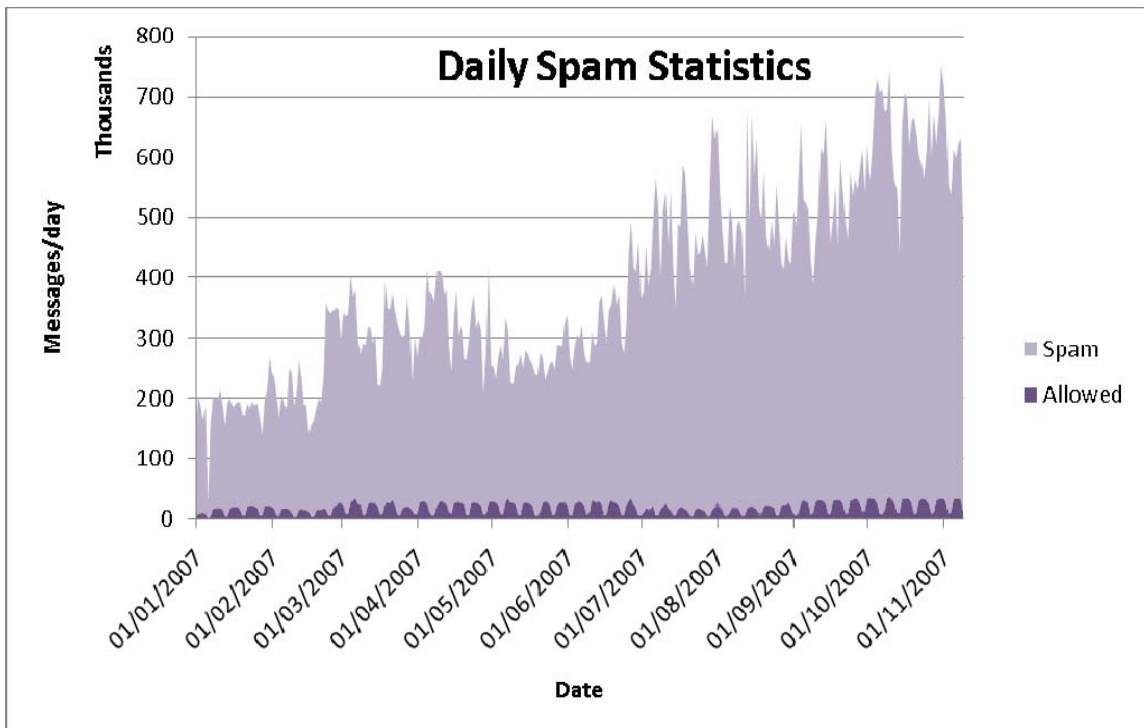
Email anti-spam /anti-virus scanning

“Spam” is electronic junk mail or junk newsgroup postings or is even more generally known as any unsolicited email. In addition to wasting people's time with unwanted e-mail, spam also eats up a lot of network bandwidth. “Anti-virus” is protective software designed to defend computers against malicious software. Malicious software, or "malware" includes: viruses, Trojans, keyloggers, hijackers, dialers, and other code that vandalizes or steals a computer's contents.

MERLIN's virus and spam filter is an integrated software solution for complete protection of your email server. MERLIN's filter is compatible with all email servers and has processed as many as 3 million messages per day.

The MERLIN filter reduces the load placed on the email server by off-loading spam and virus filtering.

Below is a graph which indicates the amount of email received and blocked. The dark purple portion is email that is valid email.





Enterprise Firewall and Intrusion Prevention

MERLIN uses the market-leading Intrusion Prevention System (IPS) from TippingPoint. The IPS is positioned in-line between MERLIN partners and the upstream Internet service providers. Traffic is inspected as it passes through the device, which determines whether it is legitimate or malicious. Potentially harmful traffic is blocked and is unable to reach its intended target.

Web and Internet Domain Name Services Hosting

Hosting (also known as *Web hosting*) is the operation of housing, serving, and maintaining files for one or more websites. In other words, it includes providing server space, web services and file maintenance for websites controlled by individuals or organizations that do not have their own servers. MERLIN provides public web space for hosting our Partner's websites.

Up to 5 Gigabytes of disk space is provided per school division. Additional disk space is negotiable.

MERLIN provides Internet domain hosting services, eg "schooldivision.ca".

Discounted Long Distance, Cell Phone and Blackberry Plans

The Government of Manitoba has entered into a new two-year contract for the supply of wireless services with MTS Allstream Inc. The wireless services agreement will expire on October 10, 2008 and has two (2) one-year extensions.

The wireless services include the provision of cell phones, blackberry wireless email, wireless Internet access and paging services. Pursuant to the Wireless Agreement, public sector organizations such as school divisions and publicly-funded academic entities have the option of obtaining the wireless services at the government rates.

To date, other public sector organizations such as the Regional Health Authorities, Manitoba Public Insurance, Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba, and Manitoba Lotteries Commission have all elected to be included in Manitoba's Agreement.

The Long Distance Services include the provision of Inbound (Toll-Free) and Outbound Long Distance Services and optional features. Rates for these and other calls have been reduced significantly, resulting in estimated savings ranging from 53 to 71 per cent.

In addition, MTS Allstream has also reduced call timing to a one second minimum with one second increments and reduced Calling Card surcharges which will result in greater savings beyond the price reductions.



Consulting

MERLIN provides an impartial review of a school division's existing strategic technology plan.

MERLIN staff will work with school divisions to help procure the best connection possible to MERLIN to take advantage of the unlimited Internet bandwidth.

Microsoft E-Learning courses

- Microsoft's E-Learning courses use simulations, demonstration, animations, and assessment to provide an engaging, effective learning experience for employees who need to upgrade their skills and knowledge. Designed by subject matter experts and updated on an ongoing basis, Microsoft's E-Learning courses can be used as traditional training or as a just-in-time reference resource.
- Available for Systems, Applications and Servers
- Over 400 courses are currently available

Bulk Hardware Purchasing Program (BHP)

As part of the Partner Program, MERLIN works with the Provincial Government, eHealth and the "The Technology Consortium" (TTC) to provide a bulk hardware purchasing program for education. The ongoing benefits of this program include:

- A simplified purchasing process – all products have been pre-tendered
- Consistent pricing (based on combined purchasing power of divisions)
- Purchasing freedom – elimination of need to purchase in quantity
- Affordable access to Enterprise Class hardware and more consistent hardware configurations regardless of division size, volume and purchasing cycle

MERLIN along with a BHP (Bulk Hardware Purchasing) Advisory group work to determine the requirements and contents of the Partner Program Price List (PPPL).



MERLIN

PARTNER PROGRAM

**Hosted SharePoint on MERLIN's servers for students
[includes Live Communication server]**

SharePoint is Microsoft's web portal which belongs to the Microsoft Office family. It is a collaborative portal application based on the Windows SharePoint Services platform. Windows SharePoint Services offers online publishing of standard file formats. It also has version control, document approval and a basic search facility.

Secure web-based file storage and chat are the two main features which will be offered. The chat feature is only available between members on the system. MERLIN will work with school divisions to access their directories for student user accounts.



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