



**Cardium Solutions**  
IT CONSULTANCY & SOLUTION PROVIDERS

# CASE STUDY

## GEORGICA PLC

### RIS Project



## Project Overview

A standard managed desktop deployment using standard Windows 2000 technologies Remote Installation Services (RIS) and Group Policy.

### Client Profile

Georgica PLC is a leading player in the UK leisure industry with over 250 snooker halls and fast food outlets. Georgica have recently established a new Head Office in Milton Keynes and have invested heavily in a Windows 2000 as their core server and desktop platforms. Cardium Solutions having designed and implemented the Windows 2000 technical infrastructure within Georgica were asked to undertake the development of a standard desktop build together with an automated deployment mechanism.

## Project Objectives

The key business objective was to enable rapid deployment of Window 2000 throughout the Head Office location. Workstations would have standard look and feel and feature customisations to reflect the corporate brand. Once deployed the workstation image would be locked down via Group Policies to prevent unauthorized tampering. Recovery or replacement of any workstation would be achieved by repeating the deployment process.

### Deliverables

- A standard core Windows 2000 workstation image to include Office 2000 and branded wallpapers, screen savers etc.
- A design and reliable and fully automated deployment method.
- To significantly improve the time taken to build and deploy a workstation (previously 2.5 Hours per machine)
- Users to be prevented from reconfiguring their workstations and from saving data to the local hard disk

## Project Approach

Consistent with Georgica's desire to base their IT Infrastructure around Windows 2000 technologies Remote Installation Service (RIS) was selected as the imaging tool. In addition to meeting the technical requirements of the project, RIS also reduced the total cost of the project by negating the need to purchase and license 3<sup>rd</sup> party imaging software.

Windows 2000 Group Policy was implemented to provide the following post deployment features:

- Desktop lockdown
- Prevent access to local HDU, Floppy disk drives and CD ROM
- Enforcement of corporate branding
- Folder redirection to server

A RIS server was established on the Head Office network using an existing windows 2000 server with little or no impact on performance.

A prototype workstation image was quickly established and deployed in pilot.

Following feedback from the pilot users an updated image was produced and following further testing and review with was approved for deployment.

All desktop hardware was PXE compliant thus enabling the delivery of the image without the need for network boot floppy disks.

Testing and timing of the deployment process (excluding hardware unpacking and placement) revealed a build time of less than 15 minutes.

## Project Conclusion

### Project Outcome

Using RIS and Windows Group Policy technology Georgica are able to deploy windows 2000 quickly and efficiently throughout their Head Office. The fully automated nature of the deployment enables a single engineer to build a number of machines simultaneously, this has proved particularly useful in establishing training room environments at short notice.

The use of Group Policy to restrict access to local devices and to redirect folders to server locations has significantly increased data security and reduced the risk of virus attacks.

The recovery of failed workstation is now a minor support task that can be undertaken by the most inexperienced of IT support staff.

### Learning Curve

When planning a new infrastructure the effort required in delivering the workstation end should not be underestimated. The development of workstation images and a robust deployment mechanism should begin in the early stages.

### Client Feedback

When asked about the project Steve Mutch (IT Manager) said

"I am delighted with the RIS infrastructure implemented by Cardium, I was surprised how quickly we were up and running with live deployments and we are already starting to see the benefits from this project"

## Our Thoughts

In today's world of over stretched IT departments the ability to deploy a standard desktop with the minimum of time and effort is a necessity. Imaging tools have become an essential weapon in the IT manager's armoury. We believe that for many companies running Windows 2000, RIS will prove to be the right choice.

## Notes

# Contacting Cardium

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