

Virtual CD Reference-Customer of H+H Software GmbH



- The British Council is the UK's International organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations with over **200 offices in 110 countries**.
- Its offices use a large number of CD ROMS for teaching and informational purposes and sharing them is both inconvenient and risks damage or loss.

The British Council's Requirements

The British Council required a corporate solution to improve the handling of many CDs in its Front Offices. The solution had to be easily administered and managed, by the local offices and had to take into account adequate bandwidth to support multiple user access to the same CD/file (e.g. all Multimedia Centre PCs accessing the same video simultaneously).

How Virtual CD is to be used within the British Council

Virtual CD provides an ideal solution allowing users to access CD-ROMs simultaneously without needing the physical CD in the CD-ROM drive. With CD-ROM images being stored on the hard disk of the server it allows easy access and replaces the mechanical CD-ROM towers used previously.

Applications can now be launched from the Active Desktop rather than through the Windows Start menu with Virtual CD applications being run from the CD image automatically. This provides the user with a faster and more seamless experience and enables applications to be readily classified into subject areas on the Active Desktop.

More recently there has been a trend towards the use of wireless laptop computers in classrooms and where bandwidth is a concern, especially with CDROMs that make heavy use of multimedia. However, using Virtual CD to install CD images directly on the local drives of classroom laptops has averted this problem, thus ensuring that multimedia software can be used without any performance loss.



Virtual CD Testing/Piloting & Standard Desktop

As the software has been incorporated in the British Council's new standard desktop environment Virtual CD has been extensively tested. This environment is based on Windows XP/Office and has now been piloted at two European sites to confirm the complete solution works as specified in a real environment.

Having passed these stringent tests, the complete integrated solution will be rolled out globally in 2004.

John Pyne, the Project Manager for the roll out, said "We are very pleased with the solution offered by Virtual CD. Having looked at a number of different products, the Virtual CD product was by far the best one to meet our requirements". (December 2003)