

### Po Chiu Catholic Secondary School: Stride Forward to Gigabit Core Network Gradually



Po Chiu Catholic Secondary School, which has established in 1970, is a subsidized co-educational day school. It emphasizes on nurturing students to have outstanding academic achievements as well as high values in religious, national, social and familial aspects through diversified curriculums and activities.

For the past few years, the school has enthusiastically advocated IT education so as to reinforce learning interest and teaching effectiveness. For instance, the fiber network was installed throughout the whole campus so that teachers and students can access to the internet and intranet easily. Moreover, in order to provide an atmosphere conducive to IT educational learning, the school also built two computer rooms, two multimedia language rooms, a preparation room of IT teaching materials, and purchased hundreds of computers and advanced multimedia facilities.

#### Challenge

To further enhance the effectiveness of IT education, the network infrastructure is the key to success. A reliable and fast Ethernet network is required to meet the increasing demands of schools' bandwidth. However, the existing switches of the network system in Po Chiu Catholic Secondary School had been used for more than ten years. The 10/100Mbps network was unable to meet the current needs, and some switches were even out of services, which caused great inconvenience to the staff and hindered the development of IT education in school. Thereby, they needed to seek a network upgrade solution with high efficiency to rectify the existing problem.

#### Solution and Benefit

Mr. Ng, the technical engineer from Po Chiu Catholic Secondary School pointed out, ICT Technologies & Services Limited (ICT) realized our concern that the budget of this network upgrade was limited; thereby, the company proposed



## NETGEAR Gigabit Core Network Upgrade

### Advantages

- Enhance Network Quality
- Accelerate Data Transmission
- High Scalability
- High Stability

### ICT Technologies & Services Limited

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the school to complete the project in two phases so as to stride forward to gigabit core network under the limited resources. Besides, Mr. Ng mentioned, "We chose ICT for our network upgrade based on its long-term experience with ICT on wireless network project. We have confidence in their excellent services and professional engineers. And we decided to purchase NETGEAR on the basis of its reputation for high-performance products from other schools". Therefore, Po Chiu Catholic Secondary School selected ICT as the solution provider and adopted NETGEAR gigabit switches for network upgrading project.

In the first phase of network upgrade, the school installed a 24-port gigabit L3 managed stackable switch GSM7328S for the core. It upgraded the school's IT backbone with high stacking and easy management. A 48-port gigabit stackable smart switch GS748TS and three 24-port gigabit stackable smart switches GS7248TS were also installed for the edge level. This enabled the school to provide a robust network connection and step forward to be a top school in IT education.

Mr. Ng illustrated that, they usually recorded the large functions in hall and transmitted the live show to the classrooms via campus network, so fast Ethernet connections were required. The network upgrade solution was just right to suit their needs. Upgrading from 10/100 to gigabit network connectivity enabled the school to improve the broadband usage throughout the campus. The large amounts of multimedia delivered far more quickly across the network, which consolidated the basis of digital learning environment.



Mr. Ng, the technical engineer from Po Chiu Catholic Secondary School pointed out, upgrading the network by phases allows their school to enhance network effectiveness gradually under the limited resources.

### Future

Network infrastructure solution should not only satisfy the current needs, but also has a capability of the transition from the old to the new. The first phase of network upgrade in Po Chiu Catholic Secondary School was just right to pave a way for future network improvement, and allowed them to stack more gigabit switches easily. Mr. Ng also indicated that the school proposed to implement second phase of network upgrade at the end of this year so as to comprehensively develop a managed gigabit Ethernet network.

