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SCENET Single Domain Q & A

What is the SCENET Single Domain?

The SCENET single domain is a term used to describe the connection of SCE Schools Local Area Networks into a single standardised, interconnected network. Once a school is connected to the domain their system will still be completely discrete and their data will only be available to users within that school, although permissions can be granted for wider access, as required by the school.

Why is it being implemented and what benefit does it give to my school?

A summary of some of the more important reasons and benefits are as follows;

1. To implement the recommendations of the Land Forces Information Assurance Group (LIAG) vulnerability assessment report published in 2010 to improve the security of SCE's ICT systems.
2. To conform with the requirements of Level 3 maturity in respect of Government Information Assurance.
3. The single domain will make SCE ICT systems more reliable and easier to manage by utilising the most up-to-date, proven operating systems, ensuring they are configured in accordance with industry best practice, are properly maintained and require less administrative intervention. This will result in the systems being more stable, more flexible and less prone to faults.
4. The consistent setup will allow a reduction in the time required to test, integrate and install new software.
5. The migration to an integrated network secured to MoD standards will facilitate the possible future connection of school systems to core MoD systems, such as HRMS and P2P.
6. A consistent setup with a standardised account naming policy will facilitate increased use of a single login per user, e.g. no need to remember a separate passwords to access your emails.
7. The operating system software currently in use on both servers and workstations is nearing the end of useful service, in fact, Microsoft support for Windows XP ends in April 2014 and Windows Server 2003 R2 in July 2015. The need to upgrade the software provides the ideal opportunity to combine the upgrade and standardisation work, thereby minimising the disruption to schools.
8. Most importantly the children of forces personnel serving overseas will require less time to familiarise themselves with the way school systems and data are organised, as the setup will be the same. This will provide a valuable reduction of the stress and disruption caused by the high levels of pupil mobility.

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When will my school be connected?

At the moment it is only planned for Primary Schools to be connected to the single domain. However, Cypriot Secondary Schools may be connected at the same time as their upgrade to Server 2008, dependant on further local discussions. The possibilities for connecting German Middle and Secondary Schools will be discussed at a tech workshop in December. A snapshot of the current state of play and planned connection dates can be found at Annex A.

What does the migration actually involve?

When your school is due to be migrated you will be contacted by your Tech Support Officer (TSO) to discuss a mutually convenient date for the change. Good housekeeping of personal folders and shared file areas will greatly aid data migration to the new server. This is an ideal opportunity to clear out obsolete files and reduce the quantity of data being held. Consider archiving old photos or school videos and deleting files which should not be on the server, such as personal media libraries.

The TSO will give each school a user input spread sheet, which will allow the bulk creation of user accounts. Please take care that everyone is included on this sheet, and that the information provided is accurate.

Following the migration, laptops will connect to the school domain to ensure that they are maintained in a secure and up-to-date state. When away from school users will still have full functionality and will have access to their school network data, but will no longer have local admin rights on the laptop. This will mean that they will not be able to load unapproved software. However the loading of approved software will be much quicker and less time consuming

Every school will vary slightly in the amount of work involved to make the transition. Some preparation work and migration of many of the ICT services will be possible in the background. However, there is likely to be some downtime whilst upgrading the main school server and transfer of workstations onto the new domain. It is recommended that this take place during a weekend or closed period. The TSO and ATSO will be on hand to help with any teething problems once people start to use the new system.

What changes will I notice as a user of the new system?

There are a few changes that will affect system users and may require some adjustment initially:

1. Members of staff and older pupils will log on to the domain with *surname-initial-random two-digit number*, e.g. smithj83. The number is necessary in order to create a unique username. It is up to individual schools to decide the definition of 'older pupils' but, at the minimum, Year 5 & 6 pupils are recommended. Children in younger classes will use *site prefix-year group-letter*, e.g. MTB1A, HEI2B, etc. Letters are allocated to a particular class at the start of the year.
2. There will be a core set of folders available in each school – these will be used to store all types of data:

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- a. **Pupil Class Shared** – Is for children with an individual login account (ie Y5 & Y6) to collaborate with other children within their class. All Teachers and Teaching Assistants are able to access and modify the contents of these folders. Pupil Class Shared is available by clicking on *Start > My Computer* and is listed in the *Network Drives* section.
- b. **Pupil Home** – This is where all the personal folders are located for every pupil with an individual account, and the class-based logins. All Teachers and Teaching Assistants can access these folders. Children can access their personal files by clicking the *Start* button, then clicking on *My Documents*. For class-based accounts, the Teacher can create individual pupil folders in this location. Pupil Home is listed in *Network Drives* for Teachers and TAs.
- c. **Shared Media** – This contains the sub-folders Audio, Video and Pictures. It is recommended that all staff and children utilise this shared area to save and access media files, as it greatly reduces the amount of duplicate files on the server, thereby saving disk space. Shared Media is available by clicking on *Start > My Computer* and is listed in the *Network Drives* section.
- d. **Staff Home** – This is where all the personal folders for staff are located. Obviously, no children can access this area and staff can only access their own folder. Staff can access their personal files by clicking the *Start* button, then clicking on *My Documents*.
- e. **Staff Shared** – This is a shared area for all members of staff to use; no pupils can access this folder. There are two subfolders called Management and Office Staff - these are locked to their respective groups. Staff Shared is available by clicking on *Start > My Computer* and is listed in the *Network Drives* section.

How do I find out more ?

In the first instance discuss your queries with you regional TSO who will be able to put the single domain into the context of your own school. If there are still any areas where you require further clarification then please email nigel.groom@scschools.com . Queries received will be consolidated into subsequent Q&A papers and distributed to all schools.

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ANNEX A TO SCENET Single Domain Q & A

Name of School	Connected to Single Domain - Yes / No / Planned connection date
HQ JHQ	Yes
HQ Bielefeld	Yes
HQ Cyprus (Episkopi)	Apr-12
HQ UK (Upavon)	Mar-12
Ark	Yes
AFNORTH	N/A
Akrotiri	tbc
Andrew Humphrey	N/A
Ayios Nikolaos	tbc
BFS Naples	Yes
Bielefeld	Yes
Bishopspark	Apr-12
Blankenhagen	Yes
Bruggen	Dec-11
Dhekelia	tbc
Episkopi	tbc
Gloucester	N/A
Haig	31-Jan-12
Heide	Yes
Hornbill	Apr-12
John Buchan	Tbc
King Richard	Tbc
King's	N/A
Lister	Apr-12
Montgomery	Apr-12
Mount Pleasant	Mar-12
Mountbatten	Yes
Oxford	Jan-12
Prince Rupert	N/A
Robert Browning	22/11/2011
Shackleton	Apr-12
SHAPE	Feb-12
Sir John Mogg	Apr-12

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Name of School	Connected to Single Domain - Yes / No / Planned connection date
Slim	Apr-12
St Christopher's	N/A
St David's	Dec-11
St John's	tbc
Weser	Yes
William Wordsworth	Apr-12
Windsor + B Houses	N/A