

# BackupPilots's Remote Datacentre

## We look at how and where the data is held

Equinet is well known in education circles for manufacturing complete hardware/software products for caching and security, and now backup. Its BackupPilot solution uniquely comprises two elements – firstly an appliance that is installed on the school LAN which holds the backed up data locally – and secondly the remote datacentre which also holds copies of the data. Between the two components, the solution



provides far more resilience and operates at far greater speeds than offerings that solely operate locally such as tapes, or ordinary remote backup solutions that only offer datacentre storage.

Equinet's partner providing the datacentre to complement the BackupPilot unit is Smartways Limited, with their TouchPoint service. Smartways was founded in 1994, and since that time Smartways and Equinet have worked together on numerous projects.

Smartways have for many years offered its customers managed services, providing a full range of ISP internet access and hosting services. Customers range from Local Authorities, central government bodies including defence, to a whole range of commercial organisations of many differing types and sizes.

*"Within the first six months of this year we have backed up a further 50,000,000 files with one client alone storing over 4.2 million critical files on the TouchPoint service which is located at centres in Northampton and London. In order to manage such vast numbers of files, we have made significant investment in our storage infrastructure. We believe this is an excellent partnership – Equinet with its background in LAN based appliances - and Smartways experience in providing datacentre storage as a fully managed service."*



**Mike Rickards,**  
Managing Director



**TouchPoint**  
Secure Online Backup

### TouchPoint – Advanced Backup Datacentre

The access WAN network to the Touchpoint datacentre service is fully-resilient and is protected by multiple firewalls utilising Active/Active technologies, providing an exceptionally robust and secure network. Behind the firewalls, TouchPoint has been built around an N+1 design enabling it to grow to hundreds of servers

capable of servicing thousands of IP connections, simultaneously accessing billions of files. In order to provide lightening-fast access to so many files, Smartways have invested in some of the world's best SAN (Storage Area Network) technologies from Hitachi.

The Hitachi SAN dual controllers provide 2 \*

4GB of throughput via two independent/cross-linked Brocade fibre switches which in turn are connected to the world's fastest NAS devices from ONStor. The ONStor acts as a massive data-pump and cache enabling incredible throughputs and data restore times. The ONStor NAS also enables 'point-in-time' snapshots to be taken of

the SAN's data as well as synchronised snap-shots of the TouchPoint database enabling truly synchronised backups to be made of the entire TouchPoint system. This infrastructure has been designed and purchased for one purpose - to provide clients with the best and most secure online backup and restore facilities in the UK.