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Infrastructures

## De Montfort University

### Student GroupWise System

De Montfort University in Leicester has a history of technical and trade education stretching back to the late 19th Century. Prior to becoming a university in 1992 it was known as Leicester Polytechnic. It has two campuses and links to universities and colleges in 25 countries. There are 20,500 students and 3,240 students.

The University wanted to provide a comprehensive and highly available email service to its students and staff. This system had to be in place for the start of the 2006/07 academic year. The solution had to be scalable and resilient to ensure a very high level of service to the student community. The system had to be able to support at least 23,500 mailboxes with a minimum of 3,500 concurrent users. All access to mailboxes was planned to be via a web interface, but the system design also had to take into account the possibility of using a fully featured client software. The design of the system had to be highly tolerant of hardware failures, and be easily extensible to allow for increased numbers of mailboxes and simultaneous connections.

The NDS8 solution has been designed with security and performance in mind whilst keeping the additional investment in hardware at a minimum. This has been achieved through effective use of clustering for the Post Offices and using a load balancing design for the WebAccess deployment that avoids the use of expensive shared storage. Both the WebAccess solutions were deployed in a modular design to enable the system to be able to handle increased storage and traffic, if and when such is required.

As all in system GroupWise communication is encrypted, the only area that required additional security was between the Apache Server and the Web client where the industry standard SSL encryption was employed.

In addition to this the facility, remote monitoring and support as built in to GroupWise, GWMonitor, is used to minimize running costs and ensure maximum up time for the system.