Barker College Case Study

Barker College is an independent Anglican co-educational PreK-12 school located in Hornsby, a North Shore suburb of Sydney, Australia. It was founded in 1890 by the Reverend Henry Plume at Kurrajong Heights.

The School currently caters for approximately 2,350 students. Its senior school (years 10-12) has been co-educational since 1976 and from 2018 Barker College started the transition to full co-education across all year groups which will be completed in 2022.

Key facts:
- PreK-12 School
- **2,350** users
- **3,000+** multiple platform devices
- Current software including **Office 365, Teams, Google Apps for Education, Canvas, and Filr**

Key requirements for Barker College:
- File access **off-premise**
- **Single Sign-On** across all platforms
- Single **unified file location** repository
- **Simplified access** to all document platforms
- **Drive staff and student engagement**

The problem

Barker College operates a multi-platform environment with a combination of **Windows, iOS and macOS devices** - between students and staff, this is upwards of **3,000 devices** at any one time. They were also using multiple, disparate storage systems, including **Office 365, Google Apps for Education (GAfE)** and **on-premise servers**. With files stored across multiple platforms, transferring files between Google, Office 365 and local file storage was often problematic for users. Additionally, Barker used Novell's solution, Filr, to grant remote access to on-premise files. The College found Filr was slow and unintuitive, which resulted in users actively avoiding it within the school community – as a result, some staff were using a VPN to access files at home.

Pre-sale experience

James Stewart, Director of ICT & eLearning, instantly loved the product, but the College had a requirement for **SAML Single Sign-On (SSO)** which Foldr hadn't released at the time. Taking this feedback on board, Foldr rescheduled their development pipeline and released the SSO feature just weeks later.

With SSO in place, the Barker ICT team installed a Proof of Concept (PoC) to put Foldr through its paces. During this period, they were not only impressed with the software but also how easy the Foldr team were to contact and how responsive they were to feature and support requests.

Foldr

The solution

After a successful PoC, Barker did a full rollout across the school and the adoption of Foldr was immediate. In terms of web access, they simply removed Filr, replaced it with Foldr and **within days their ICT Service Desk was receiving calls on how much better the new online file access service was**. Instead of just access to their on-premise files, users could now access Office 365 and GAfE storage in the same place, on any device and easily move files between them.

Another huge plus was the added support of Teams and Canvas. The Teams integration has already been rolled out and is used widely across the school and there are plans to implement the Canvas integration soon.

ICT Director James added,

" *Because Foldr is backend-agnostic it allows us to provide our staff and students with a consistent user experience as we move away from GAfE and traditional file servers towards majority use of Office 365 for file access/storage.* "

How about on-going support?

"Ongoing support has been excellent. We have no concerns with expected levels of support should we have any issues in the future. We provided some feedback regarding some minor UX issues, but again, the Foldr team made these changes within weeks and there have been no further issues."

Would Barker College recommend Foldr?

When asked whether the College would recommend Foldr, James, ICT Director stated:

"Absolutely – 100%. I wish there was an SMB version running in the cloud that I could recommend to small to medium non-profits! Actually, is there?".

James, we're working on it!

If you'd like to know more about Foldr please visit www.selectec.com/products/foldr
If you would like to try Foldr then please contact us for a 30-day free trial

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