

SYSTIMAX®

SOLUTIONS

SYSTIMAX® Structured Connectivity Solutions Supports Sun's™ £200m Super Campus

SYSTIMAX® GigaSPEED®, OptiSPEED® and LazrSPEED® Solutions provide connectivity for hot desking system with 1,500 users.

At its new Guillemont Park campus in southern England, Sun Microsystems™ is making full use of its own Sun Ray™ hot desking architecture. By using high-speed communications links to access files and applications on central servers, this is giving employees maximum flexibility in where they work. Sun Ray appliances provide screens, keyboards and access software. All of the other computing resources required to start work arrive via the network.

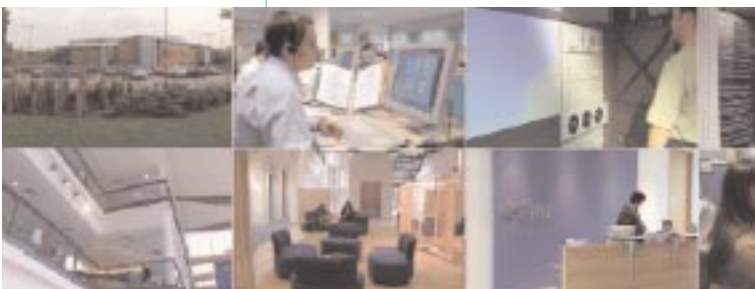
By enabling employees to use any available desk, this approach reduces hardware costs and office space requirements. It's success, however, depends on the performance and reliability of its network infrastructure. To provide the quality of connectivity that was needed, Sun decided to make Category 6/Class E cabling a standard for its desktop connections.

IT Operations Manager for EMEA, Dave Kimber, responsible for Sun's communications infrastructure at Guillemont Park and across the whole of the Europe, Middle East and Africa region sees this standard as a key part of the new campus.

"The site and its systems are designed to give departments maximum freedom to organize in the best way," he said. "Cabling infrastructure plays a vital part since the desktop is kept simple and the network delivers most of the computing resources."

SYSTIMAX® GigaSPEED® UTP copper solution was selected for connections to desks and SYSTIMAX LazrSPEED® multimode fiber for risers.

Communications rooms on each floor of the site's two and three story buildings contain GigaSPEED 1100 patching hardware with RJ-45 connectors.

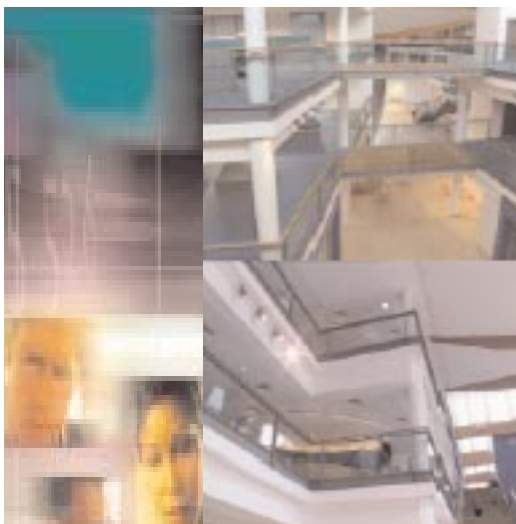


This SYSTIMAX cabling now interconnects a range of Avaya products at the campus. These include the CentreVu® Call Management System, DEFINITY® Enterprise Communications Server and AUDIX® Multimedia Messaging System.

Sun was attracted by the GigaSPEED Solution because it is well proven at thousands of sites worldwide and fully compliant to the proposed Category 6/Class E standard. It provides 250% more bandwidth than Category 5 cabling and will comfortably, and cost effectively, support high-speed networking applications such as 1000BASE-T Gigabit Ethernet. For an extra margin of fire safety, Sun chose to use the LSZH (Low Smoke Zero Halogen) GigaSPEED cable.

The LazrSPEED Solution, optimized for transmission in the 850nm band, provides throughputs of up to 10 Gb/s in the backbone without the need for very complex electronics. For longer connections, between buildings, SYSTIMAX OptiSPEED® singlemode fiber cable is used.

Currently, most of the Guillemont Park site is served by 100BASE-T Ethernet. As well as providing upgrade potential to 1 Gb/s and more, the GigaSPEED Solution also gives immediate benefits in the form of faster file transfer and higher quality streaming media at 100 Mb/s.



“We use Avaya’s infrastructure throughout Sun facilities in 23 countries across Europe and have found that it gives us the high end-to-end performance we need,” said Dave Kimber. “It also has the advantage that all the components are designed to work together by one company so we get a complete solution from a single source.”

When complete, the Guillemont Park campus will consist of five buildings with total office space of more than 46,000 square meters. SYSTIMAX Prestige VAR, Honeywell Network Solutions, will install cabling and switches for all of these. Honeywell, like Avaya has a long association with Sun, having carried out installations for the company at other UK locations including Bracknell, Bagshot, Cambridge and Coventry.

In the current Phase 1 of the project, Honeywell has cabled and connected two buildings, Java House and Solaris House. These house almost 1,500 employees in functions including sales, support, human resources, finance and legal. Phase 2 of the project, due for completion in the first half of 2002, consists of a further three buildings.

A total of 8,800 outlets have already been installed in the existing offices. Cabling is routed under floors in a segmented layout with multiple routes to the main server room in Solaris house. This provides the level of resilience needed by mission critical systems, including Sun’s call center, which use the cabling network.

“Avaya products and people help us get the best from our systems,” said Dave Kimber. “The end result is one of the most efficient office complexes anywhere in the world.”



About Sun Microsystems, Inc.

Since its inception in 1982, a singular vision, The Network Is The Computer™, has propelled Sun Microsystems, Inc. (Nasdaq: SUNW), to its position as a leading provider of industrial strength hardware, software and services that power the Internet and allow companies worldwide to dot-com their businesses. With \$19.1 billion in annual revenues, Sun can be found in more than 170 countries and on the World Wide Web at <http://sun.com> and <http://sun.co.uk>.

In all the buildings, the Sun Ray hot desking architecture will allow employees to sit anywhere that suits their needs on a particular day. To facilitate this, office space is divided into 'neighborhoods' areas where staff expect to meet with colleagues working in the same line of business.

Employees can log-in to the system in any neighborhood and then move to another without logging out. All they need to do is remove and reinsert their Java™ smartcard and the network will reconnect them to their files and applications running on the server.

From when Sun purchased the land in 1998 to first occupation of the site in October 2000, the project has run smoothly. During this time, the work of all the contractors, including cabling installers, had to be well coordinated to make the project a success. In Phase 2, this will be even more important since the next three buildings must be brought on stream more rapidly than originally planned due to Sun's phenomenal growth rates in the UK. In the quarter before Phase 1 was completed, revenues grew by 66 per cent.

Dave Kimber believes that network infrastructure has a key role in sustaining this success. "Without cabling and data switches integrated to give the highest possible throughput, we couldn't achieve our aims," he said. "That is true today and will certainly be true in the future."

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