



## Large Scale Internet Development Project

NeoWorks, TAG Learning, Walkers, Sun Microsystems, EDEX

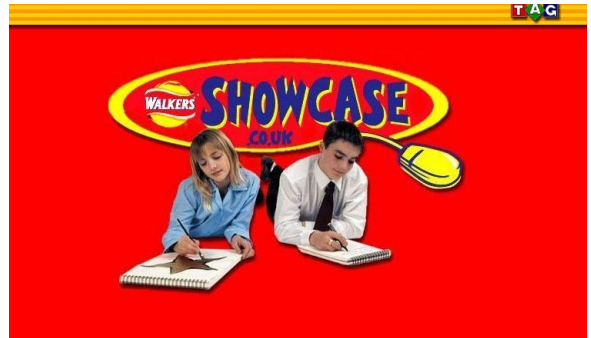
### THE CUSTOMER

TAG Learning is a leading supplier of ICT products to the education market.

Walkers Snack Foods is one of the largest snack food manufacturers in the UK.

### THE CHALLENGE

TAG Learning approached NeoWorks with a specification for a gallery system to showcase the best work produced by the students in every school in the United Kingdom and Eire. The system had to be reliable, and highly scaleable, offering access to every school in the UK & Eire. The timescale for development was short, and had a hard launch date as the system was launched at the BETT educational software exhibition.



### OUR SOLUTION

NeoWorks developed the solution in Java, using the Apache Tomcat JSP/Servlet container, running on Solaris. The system was developed around designs provided by third party web designers, with guidance from the marketing team at Walkers. The software leverages XML and XSL technologies to provide a flexible and maintainable publishing pipeline, supporting future extensions in functionality.

NeoWorks worked closely with TAG to produce detailed specifications for both the software system and the hosting and hardware platforms for the site. NeoWorks liaised with Sun Professional Services, Seabass Systems, Graphic Designers and other third parties to coordinate the development and deployment of the hardware and software systems in time for the launch.

### SUCCESS

*"I am very supportive of initiatives such as this which will help to unlock the creativity of pupils using both traditional methods and new technologies. Showcase will encourage innovative approaches to teaching and learning"*

**Secretary of State for Education, David Blunkett MP**

NeoWorks developed the software within budget, and to schedule, whilst dealing with the changing requirements that are inevitable in a project with such a short timescale.

Sun Microsystems provided the hardware solution; a fully redundant terabyte storage array, clustered database servers and load-balanced web servers. Edex provided symmetric redundant feeds into their network backbone, and hosted the servers at their RedBus hosting facility in the Docklands.

Six weeks before the initial launch date NeoWorks deployed a beta test version of the complete system. During the beta testing period NeoWorks configured the production web server platform with the appropriate load balanced software to run the application and populated the system databases with details of all participating schools and colleges.

All configuration work was completed and the application was soak-tested one week before the successful launch at BETT2001. The application was demonstrated live at the launch presentation hosted by Walkers.

*"From the initial scoping meetings through to final delivery (which was on time and in budget) the NeoWorks team provided dedicated and thorough support to the Walkers Showcase project. The great thing about NeoWorks is that they are not tied to any single technology or application - and this gave them the flexibility to find the solutions which were most appropriate for the project."*

**Will Wharfe - Online Director, TAG Learning; Project Manager, Walkers Showcase**