

Education: Promoting professional development and Internet safety with the Epson Discproducer PP-100

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case study



“Implementation of disc duplicators such as the PP-100 has a major positive impact on information hubs such as educational centres. By providing resources on the Web and on CD/DVD, we see ourselves as contributing positively to the exchange of educational resources right across the country.”

Chief Training Supervisor

Located in Hanamaki City, Iwate Prefecture, is one of the area’s most important educational facilities. Referred to as a General Education Centre, it focuses on providing support to schools – special needs and kindergarten to high school – throughout the Prefecture. Among the Centre’s various activities are teaching staff professional development seminars and conducting research into educational practices and issues.

Recently, the Centre gained national attention when it gained an award from Japan’s Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology for its on-line information site designed to protect students from the hazards of the Internet.

Overview

For a General Education Centre in Hanamaki City, Iwate Prefecture, Japan, the introduction of the Epson Discproducer PP-100 is delivering benefits to teachers, students and the community.

Challenges

- Protect children from potentially hazardous Web sites
- Introduced a more simplified and effective distribution of educational resources to teachers, children and parents.

Solution

Epson Discproducer PP-100

Benefits

- Nearly a 50 per cent reduction in the amount of time required for disc duplicating and label printing
- Promoting the use of readily available resources to teachers

The need for a high-performance solution

Core to the Centre’s activities are the creation and distribution of educational resources for students and teaching staff. Those resources play a crucial part in maintaining high levels of education across the Iwate Prefecture’s schools. Reports on the result of research, lesson plans and guides to assist in managing special classes, such as foreign languages, are only some of the resources made available by the Centre.

While there is a strong emphasis on utilising the Internet as a distribution medium, the size of many PDFs, videos, images and presentation files, as well as the need to distribute those resources at seminars and schools called for a high-performance and easy to use CD/DVD duplicating solution. Ultimately, it resulted in the implementation of the Epson PP-100 Discproducer.

Replacing multiple duplicators with a single Discproduct PP-100

Prior to implementing the PP-100, the Centre had installed two third-party units, one each to service its disc duplication and label printing requirements. When the unit dedicated to duplication failed, the decision was made to trial a PP-100 as an all-in-one duplication and printing solution.

Within a short period of time, Centre staff discovered that the PP-100’s speed and ease of duplication, along with high quality label printing and extended software features made it the ideal solution. Of particular note was the fact that the difference in cost between the purchase of a new PP-100 and the repair of the failed unit was minimal.

In addition, with the PP-100 being backed by local and reliable support, the decision was even easier.

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Reduced time for disc duplication

According to one of the Centre's Training Supervisors, the PP-100 is so easy to use that there is virtually no need to consult any support documentation. Added to that is that with high-performance error detection and correction functionality, and the one unit being used for duplication and label printing, there is a dramatic reduction in the amount of time being devoted to disc duplication.

"We're now spending only about half the amount of time on disc duplication and label printing than we were previously," he states.

With the PP-100 affording the Centre such an improvement in productivity, it is also being utilised to create discs that contain public domain information and files sourced from third-party Web sites. Those files, which are also included in the Centre's own web site, can now be easily duplicated and distributed using the PP-100.

"The Internet is a valuable resource for teachers, students and parents," the Training Supervisor states. "But there are many hazardous sites.

"Having the PP-100 means we are able to create discs that provide people with a range of on-line resources, and protect children from the hazardous nature of the Internet."

Supporting easy distribution

The PP-100s have further proved their worth at the Centre through their use in digitally publishing documents for distribution at annual research seminars. "Disc duplicators, such as the PP-100, have the advantage of supporting the easy distribution of high volume files and multimedia content," the Training Supervisor explains.

He goes on to say that with information distributed on CDs and DVDs, people are more inclined to examine the content than might otherwise be the case if it were available primarily via the Internet. "More and more," he says, "educational staff use personal computers to create exams and handouts. Having the information and resources available on a single disc is regarded by those people as being very useful."

As a direct result of the uptake in use of the CD/DVD-based resources by teaching staff and students, coupled with the ease and speed of production afforded by the PP-100, he expects even greater emphasis within the Centre to be placed on the capabilities of the PP-100.

A Chief Training Supervisor at the Centre comments: "Implementation of disc duplicators such as the PP-100 has a major positive impact on information hubs such as educational centres. By providing resources on the Web and on CD/DVD, we see ourselves as contributing positively to the exchange of educational resources right across the country."

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