

# Findel Education

*choose 2bm to design and build their new state of the art server room.*

**Findel Education Division is the leading supplier of educational products across the full curriculum and beyond. Trading in the UK and internationally with schools and educational institutions their portfolio includes leading brands such as Hope Education, NES Arnold, Galt, and Davies Sports.**

To facilitate continued expansion a decision was taken to invest in a new state of the art server room at the company's UK distribution centre in Nottingham. They approached 2bm to help deliver the solution.

## A time for change

Like most organisations Findel Education has become increasingly reliant on technology in recent times. With over 100 servers and 1400 users across 35 sites to support, the company's impressive recent growth had placed mounting pressure on the existing data centre facility as Duncan Brooks of Findel Education explains.

## The 2bm approach

Aware that more and more companies are looking for a full service approach to data centre management solutions, 2bm took the decision last year to set up a separate division, 2bm Environments. Jason Preston, Director of 2bm explains the rationale behind the move and, more importantly, how it helps improve the service 2bm is able to offer to Findel Education.

"We took the decision to set up 2bm Environments as there was a clear trend emerging. More and more of the people we spoke to were concerned about the ability of their existing server room facility to cope with the growing pressure placed on the infrastructure by continued IT expansion. There was also dissatisfaction with the IT industry, which many felt only catered for the larger installations. Our focus is very much centred on the smaller to mid-range sized server rooms (ie up to 100 servers), so as to offer affordable solutions for all budgets."

"We offer companies a complete project management solution for server room builds and refurbishments. From design to installation we want to take all the worry away from the task at hand."

"Very few purpose built server rooms seem to exist, companies forced to make the most of the resource at their disposal. But eventually there comes a time when you need to take step back, decide where you want to be and that is hopefully where 2bm Environments comes in" Jason added.



2bm's state-of-the-art server room solution



## The Findel solution

**Gordon Smith, Projects Director of 2bm Environments, headed up the team that worked closely with the team at Findel Education. Gordon explains how they set about the project.**

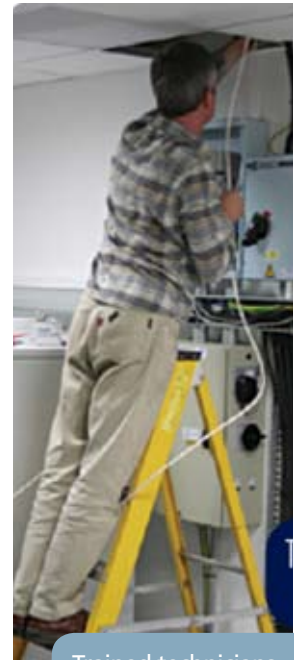
“The very first task was to sit down with Duncan and the team to establish what current kit would be transferred over to the new server room. That’s your starting point but it is vital that you also take into account likely expansion to ensure there is enough capacity within the centre for several years to come.”

“We were then able to identify an area within the distribution centre at Nottingham. By matching the kit list and the area available we drew up a space plan best placed to deliver the necessary environment for efficient server operation and management.”

The programme of works took just four weeks to complete and included:

- Basic fabric work to construct a resilient enclosure with appropriate secure access
- Electrics, with the necessary power requirement accurately determined from the kit list
- Raised access floors
- Computer rated air conditioning solution
- UPS back up ~ the specification driven by a full understanding of business requirements. In Findel Education’s case, the UPS back up was designed to provide 30 minutes of power, sufficient time for the servers to automatically shut down in the event of any incident
- Fire detection and suppression systems
- The very latest next generation SAR cabinet solution

Gordon believes that more companies are seeing the benefits of taking a more strategic view to server room management.



Trained technicians install the new system

“All too often office space is used to house server rooms. This will only take you so far, and as you start to add kit problems with heat and space will almost certainly start to affect the efficiency of your room. Whilst the easiest decision, in the short term, is to soldier on, I strongly believe most businesses would benefit in the long term through the introduction of a purpose built (or refurbished) server room.”

“We had taken the existing server room about as far as we could and it was clear we had to look at alternative solutions. At the same time the company was looking to rationalise its office locations so it made perfect sense to assess what options were open to us.”

“Working closely with 2bm, we identified an area within our distribution centre at Nottingham. That in theory was the easy part. The real challenge lay ahead but thanks to 2bm we had little to worry about.”



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### The summary

Relocating and refurbishing your server room represents both a big decision and a major investment in time and resources. But it is a decision that Findel Education does not regret.

“We now have a server room to be proud of,” beams Duncan. “We could not have asked for more. Thanks to the SAR cabinet, it is incredibly efficient on space and also, through its unique cable management solution, a lot easier to work in. And looking to the future, I am confident it will support the business for many years to come.”

“With the day to day pressures we, like all IT professionals face, to hand over the complete project to 2bm Environments was a big selling point. From start to finish I had complete confidence in their ability to deliver. So much so that I only had to visit the site just once during the construction process!”

### Find out more...

2bm is one of the fastest growing providers of data centre solutions in the UK. Our aims are clear and simple ~ to offer unparalleled levels of advice, service and support. Located in the East Midlands, 2bm’s clients include many forward thinking organisations like Axiom Housing Association, across all sectors of commerce and industry.



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