

Local Proxy Migration – July 2014

As part of our overall improvements to your Internet service, Link2ICT will be removing the local proxy servers located within schools. This forms part of our overall review of the service and requirement to adapt to the changing technologies in use, particularly those required to access cloud based services.

Following extensive testing and proof of concept (POC), Link2ICT is planning to migrate schools away from using a locally hosted proxy server to using a load balancer which will distribute traffic between the core proxy servers before accessing the Internet. The migration will be phased and your school is scheduled to move to the new service during the week beginning Monday 21st July 2014.

Why is Link2ICT migrating servers?

The migration is required to allow greater flexibility and management of Internet access, particularly around secure websites and cloud-based services. The new core load balancing servers will allow Link2ICT to better manage and control the varying requirements of customers, and remove some of the technical limitations of the local proxy servers. The local proxy servers are also using older technology and were due to be replaced or upgraded.

What does my school need to do?

There is no requirement to make any changes at your school. The schools' proxy (eduproxy.bgfl.org) will automatically be redirected to the core load balancers ensuring a seamless transition.

How was this tested?

A number of schools assisted Link2ICT in a pilot through a POC environment. This demonstrated that the load balancer would achieve the desired technical objectives. Following this POC the production environment was implemented and the pilot schools migrated over to it. The production environment has been scaled to accommodate all schools' Internet traffic.

What happens next?

It is important that once moved to the new proxy load balancer the old local proxy server remains in place until we are satisfied that the service is fully operational for your school. Following further testing and monitoring, Link2ICT will contact your school to confirm that the old server can be shutdown and either re-used or disposed of.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Prior to the migration, please ensure your Technician or Network Manager carries out checks to confirm the correct proxy settings are set up in all browsers. Schools should have eduproxy.bgfl.org port 80 for proxy settings in the browsers and not an IP address. Where schools subscribe to Espresso, they must add a browser exception espresso.bgfl.org or *.bgfl.org.

Schools must ensure that other recommended browser exceptions are in place. This improves performance and avoids unnecessary load on the proxy servers.

Further information:

For more information, please refer to the knowledgebase article **KB0011236 – Best Practice on Configuring Proxy Exceptions**.

In the meantime, if you have any queries, please visit the Link2ICT Support Portal or contact the Service Desk on 0121 303 5100/servicedesk@link2ict.org.