# Pentnet system solves MSIT problems

*Tim Marsh, project manager for the product and innovation centre of MSIT, says the Pentnet software makes it feels like a human is running the machine*

LAST year, MSIT went looking for a new printer and new software. Tim Marsh, project manager for the product and innovation centre of MSIT, says, "We had a requirement to improve the quality, presentation and control of our documents. We were wary of getting a printer that didn't relate to the software we would buy, so we looked for a software solution that was managed and supported through the printer."

MSIT installed a Konica Minolta 1200 bizhub Pro black and white and a Konica Minolta 2000 black and white. Marsh says, "The 1200 is a reliable workhorse. The KM2000 has the same engine as an Océ Varioprint 6200. We also have a Konica Minolta 1050 black and white and a Konica Minolta C5501 colour printer. These machines have achieved a few million clicks since we installed them."

He continues, "Konica Minolta introduced us to Pentnet as part of their solution, and we could see that Pentnet already had much of what we required. We have a busy print room where users need multiple documents and large quantities of variable data, all printed and finished correctly to a high standard in a quick turnaround time. We need a system with scalability that can also handle a large volume of work flows, users and files."

## Custom made

PENTNET built an enterprise system specifically for MSIT. Peter Ludwig, managing director of Pentnet says, "The Pentnet system we built enables MSIT to do high volume, high quality work with multiple documents and last minute changes on very tight deadlines.

**Through Pentnet, the Metropolitan South Institute of Tafe (MSIT), serving about 10,000 students in Queensland, has found the web to print and workflow system to fit its specific requirements**

The system also has electronic job ticketing and job tracking complete from start to finish of the whole printing process, enabling job tracking history. All of these requirements were critical for MSIT. Essentially, our solution allows end users to upload the documents online they need printed. They can then get a price online in real time and print directly to MSIT's Konica Minolta printers."

Marsh says, "The system enables full content management for us and it manages the complex side of the print workflow. It's incredible; it can give the results you get from hot folder work but it really gives you much more than that. When someone uploads a job, all the printer operator has to do is push start. The format is based on how many pages in the document. For example, if it is 60 pages, the system will perfect bind it after pre-printing its wrap-around cover."

The system also chooses the cover, that is, the image graphics for the finishing stock and text, based on the qualification it is for, type of resource, number of pages. Marsh says, "One of the very cool things about the system is that when it goes to the print operator side it is very smooth. You just press start and you don't have to do anything. The system chooses the correct printer and sends the job off with all the instructions, stock, binding, job number, quantity: the whole job."

The Pentnet system inserts the job ID and the development stage into the cover design. Ludwig adds, "MSIT also needed to have all the job data retained for compliance. MSIT developed ratings for the documents such as: copyright, validation and content currency. It can see whether all the documents are up to date, and if not, it can find the documents so they can be updated. This functionality was all important for quality control."

## Full integration

LUDWIG adds, "There are also a lot of great search options so it's much easier to find documents. Some of the search functions include unit number, unit title, resource type, team that owns it, document name, description, key word, document id, what stage it is up to, date last ordered and author. In the case of document id number, documents can be reordered."

The system sends the job information to the correct Konica Minolta machines. One machine prints the colour covers and the black and white machine waits until the colour covers are printed. Once the covers are printed, they are placed in the black and white machine and the covers are added to the job, so the printer prints and binds the whole document including the covers and black and white. It also handles perfect binding and wrap around binding.

Marsh says, "Once we print jobs, the document can receive a score in relation to quality and level of development, so we aren't rating documents by the content system, we are rating them by what comes out the printer. You can only achieve this when the content management system is fully integrated with your printing system."

When you see the software running, it looks as if someone is actually running the machine. It is like a human sitting at the computer, only faster. Because this is like a human operator, it gives so much more flexibility; it's like you have another employee."