

**SUCCESS STORY:** Ecole Emile Cohl

## NAS Storage Solutions



**ECOLE  
EMILE  
COHL**

**“It is a boon for the students, faculty and school”**

AYMERIC HAYS NARBONNE, PRINCIPAL, ECOLE EMILE COHL

## Ecole Emile Cohl uses **WD Red<sup>®</sup> Pro Drives**

WD Red Pro NAS hard drives incorporate Western Digital’s exclusive NASware™ technology to improve your NAS system by increasing performance, compatibility and reliability.





# Western Digital

## WD Red<sup>®</sup>Pro NAS Hard Drive

Aymeric  
Haays  
Narbonne



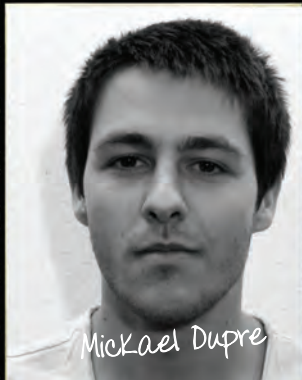
Letizia Troffi



Jérôme Sintès



Mickael Dupre



The prestigious Ecole Emile Cohl in Lyon, France, established in 1984, equips students to succeed in the creative industries. The internationally renowned school emphasizes traditional artistic techniques executed with the support of modern technology.

The college offers five-year courses. During the first three years, the students are expected to master traditional artistic techniques and explore creative disciplines before specializing on a vocational subject in the final two years. During this time, the students produce a large body of work, including sketches, images, paintings and videos.

Alumni have achieved significant national and international success. Recently, one final-year student, Etienne Vautrin won the 2014 Creative Arts Prize at the Festival National d'Animation de Bruz for his animated film called 'Chess'. Other Emile Cohl graduates have gone on to work on high-profile projects, including the 'Assassin's Creed' video game and the Oscar-winning special effects for Alfonso Cuarón's film 'Gravity' with Sandra Bullock and George Clooney.

At the beginning of each academic year, students are assigned storage space on the college IT network. But due to storage limits, at the end of each year the assigned storage space was cleared to make room for the next year. If the students wanted to preserve their digital work they had to save it to an external device or lose it forever.

Jérôme Sintès, IT Manager at Ecole Emile Cohl, explains: "it was very unsatisfactory that we had to delete the files at the end of each school year. Students wanted to be able to easily access their whole body of work. They felt very limited by being able to view only the current year."

In addition to the personal storage spaces, open storage spaces were available so students could share their work with their course tutors and professors. Work could then be conveniently assessed and marked.





However, because of the lack of available network storage, the college was forced to optimise these shared storage spaces. Jérôme says that this was unsatisfactory: “Staff wanted to be able to access students’ work over the full five years in order to assess their progress. It was also desirable to see the work of previous students and track their progression. **It was clear we needed to upgrade our network storage.**”

“After looking at various alternatives, we felt that a 12-bay NAS storage solution from QNAP would meet our needs most effectively,” explains Ecole Emile Cohl’s Principal, Aymeric Hays Narbonne. “Ten of its bays use 4TB WD Red Pro drives, giving us a total of 30TB of network storage dedicated to educational data and set up in a RAID 6 array. This answers the requirements for both staff and student storage, while ensuring reliability. We are very pleased with the performance.”

By deploying WD Red Pro drives in RAID 6, the college is assured of a highly reliable system with great performance. The WD Red Pro drive is designed for large storage systems and integrates WD’s exclusive advanced NASware technology, which enables seamless integration, robust data protection and optimal performance for systems operating in demanding NAS environments.

The QNAP solution was the ideal choice in which to integrate the WD Red Pro drives and for the school to store and secure the growing body of work. It is a cost-effective

networked storage device incorporating high reliability and scalability. It features cross-platform file sharing, comprehensive backup solutions, iSCSI and visualization, and many other practical business applications.

Aymeric says: “**The students’ work is really valuable, both to them and to the college. Ensuring its safekeeping is paramount.** It is also important that we set and maintain data security standards and make that part of our students’ artistic process. Good data management and storage will be an essential part of their working life, so we need to instill it now and embed good practices.”

Jérôme says: “This new solution offers great flexibility in terms of data management. We chose the WD Red Pro drives because they offer an ideal combination in terms of performance, capacity, cost and reliability. It enables us to meet our significant storage requirements for this key educational data. We have been very impressed with the WD Red Pro drives’ performance on all of those counts.

“It’s also been a huge benefit to the IT team to have a separate NAS for educational data on a dedicated VLAN. This has enabled us to optimise the flow of network traffic and improve performance across the board. We’re very pleased with the whole deployment. It was achieved with minimal disruption and we’ve already seen great improvements.”



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Not only has the WD and QNAP solution delivered major improvement for the IT team, the students and faculty have also experienced the benefits. Computer graphics tutor, Letizia Goffi, explains: **“The new system offers the great advantage of being able to access coursework for any student straightaway, either on the local network or at home via the FTP server for home marking.”**

“Another major advantage is the extra capacity it gives us,” Aymeric continues. “We’re able to store students’ final projects, including animated films, without the constraints of compression. **We will now be free to archive all the diploma project work in high definition.**”

The students have high praise for the WD solution too. Third-year student, Mickael Dupre, says: “I’m so pleased with the new WD system. **It’s been so good to have such a super space to save my artwork, and know that it is completely secure and safeguarded. I’m excited to be able to access my coursework from one year to another in order to track my progress as an artist.**”

Aymeric agrees: “For our students, the fact that we no longer have to delete their work offers them far better support. Now, they can see their previous years’ work in their personal file space when they return to their studies in September. They are able to access their work at any time and be inspired by their own progression. I can see the possibilities for greater collaboration and development. **It has been a boon for the students, faculty and school.**”

WD is now a big part of the college’s expansion plans. The college will move to a new purpose-built site in the Campus Pro Lyon Rhone-Alpes facility, which already is home to several vocational and technical colleges. The new site is three times larger than Ecole Emile Cohl’s existing site and will enable the college to expand its course offering.

Aymeric concludes: “Our new site will enable us to create an exciting dynamic environment, which will provide great professional opportunities for our students. **After experiencing the wonderful support, partnership and quality products that WD and QNAP offer, we plan to work with them as the college continues to expand and develop.**”

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