

Meet our expert testers

All testing of the NAS devices was done at the test labs of Republic Polytechnic in Singapore.

The country's newest polytechnic, RP has won accolades for its innovative methods of teaching, chief of which is Problem Based Learning (PBL).

Through PBL, students at RP are encouraged to experience self-learning and discovery through the process of understanding, analysing and solving real-world problems. They work in small groups of students facilitated by a tutor.

RP's partnership with *MIS tech* is an excellent example of the way the institution engages in solving real world problems through industry partnerships.

Within RP's School of Info Comm Technology (SIT), there are laboratories for IT domains such as networking, wireless, information security, business continuity, multimedia and security management. The polytechnic also runs Technology Development Centres in the areas of open source, security, supply chain management and bio-medical sciences, among others. Its industry partners include AMD, Apple, Avaya, Cisco Systems, Fujitsu, Hitachi Data Systems, HP, Macromedia, Microsoft, Oracle, Sun Microsystems and many others.

As a result, all of the polytechnic's laboratories are equipped with products and systems from leading vendors. "This allows us to set up various testing environments for different types of products efficiently," says Ong Hong Joo, academic staff with RP's SIT.

"Our teams are also led by academic staff of SIT, who have the certifications and industry experience from various domains to come up with test cases that are able to test the equipment fairly and comprehensively.

"In addition, due to our IT-savvy environment in RP, our students are equipped with the basic IT skills and knowledge to handle the various IT



From left, Academic staff, Bernard Leong and Ong Hong Joo, of the School of Info Comm Technology, Republic Polytechnic.

The students and staff of Republic Polytechnic are serious about making testing fair and exhaustive.

tasks. This makes them suitable candidates to test the various appliances from the user point of view without compromising the integrity and fairness of the tests," he says.

For the NAS devices, each review team went through four test sessions, with each session taking three to four hours. "As this is the first time that our team is involved in NAS appliances testing, the toughest part of the testing was to come out with a testing sequence that ensures each and every one of the NAS appliance is being tested fairly," says Ong.

What impressed Ong about the testing was how mature NAS technology was.

"It's really surprising to find that it has really become pretty easy to manage an NAS appliance. Most of the useful functionalities of the NAS appliances can be configured easily with just a few clicks of your mouse," he says. ■