Kensington®

Locking Kits Help Improve the Educational Experience

AT-A-GLANCE

- Network of parish libraries that serves around 20,000 students from over 30 public schools in the indigenous city of El Alto, Bolivia
- Project operates under Bolivian leadership guided by committed parish members to serve their children and youth

CHALLENGE

- Improve student access to online educational resources in existing parish libraries while safeguarding digital equipment investments

SOLUTION

- Receive grant funding for computer labs in Bolivia libraries; Kensington's Desktop PC & Peripheral Locking Kits help to protect and secure the devices

BENEFITS

- Outside support helps equip libraries with Internet-connected computers and computer resource training to provide improved educational opportunities for children and families of the Senkata parishes, while Kensington's Locking Kits keep computers and peripheral accessories locked safely together to protect against theft or damage

The Bolivia Library Project sought outside support to help provide Bolivian youth with access to digital education resources, including Internet-connected computers and computer resource training—and also needed a way to secure and protect the donated computer equipment.

THE SITUATION: The Bolivia Library Project was founded in 1997 as a network of parish libraries that supports the Bolivian youth of the Senkata parishes of San Francisco de Asis and Santa Clara as they strive to improve student access to online educational resources in their existing parish libraries. Chris Edmundson, who works for the University of Colorado at Denver, became involved through his parish with the plight of the Bolivian students and their need for digital education resources. "These Bolivian youth see education as an opportunity to help pull their families out of poverty and to improve their society," Edmundson said.

With strong computer technical skills based on his previous role as a network administrator at the Department of Education for the State of Colorado, Edmundson knew the importance of procuring outside support to equip each of the libraries. He also wanted to ensure that the donated computers stayed safe and secure from theft in the public setting.

When he served as a network administrator, Edmundson was in charge of securing hundreds of laptops for mobile workers in the field and different school districts. He knew that if even a single device was stolen, critical data would be lost, so he had invested in locking systems to secure the laptops.

Fast forward to today: After submitting a grant request to set up a computer lab for the Bolivia Library Project and getting it funded through his church,

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Chris Edmundson
University of Colorado at Denver

Edmundson knew his next step was to find a way to lock down the donated computer equipment, which included 10 monitors as well as 10 thin clients, to prevent them from being taken out of the building. "Just as when I worked for the State of Colorado, I needed to find a preventative method to protect the machines from simple things like someone lifting a laptop from the library," Edmundson said. "Since these are public libraries, there is a lot of public access to the machines."

THE SOLUTION: After considering whether to use previous security solutions, Edmundson was thrilled when Kensington offered to donate 10 Kensington Desktop PC & Peripheral Locking Kits to protect and secure all 10 computer monitors and other accessories that had been donated to the Bolivia Library Project.

The Kensington Locking Kits, which feature a long carbon steel cable, anchor plate, and a Kensington keyed lock head, allowed the thin clients to be locked down securely with their associated monitors like a "set," avoiding the need for 10 extra locks.

"After receiving the grant from my church to set up the computer lab, it was equally important that I find a way to ensure that the equipment would be secure in a public setting," Edmundson said. "The Kensington Desktop PC & Peripheral Locking Kits solved the problem because each kit has everything needed to secure both a monitor and peripherals. This is exactly what we needed to ensure that the computer donations would stay safely in the library for student use."

THE BENEFITS: With Kensington Locking Kits, the Bolivia Library Project is able to keep its arsenal of donated thin clients and computer monitors locked safely together to avoid theft. Being able to protect these precious digital assets is key to ensuring that the outside support given to help equip libraries with computer equipment continues to provide enhanced educational opportunities for Bolivian children and families.

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