

Environmentally-friendly Neoware solution boosts efficiency



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Objective:

Bootham School looked to replace its fleet of PCs and servers with a modern networked solution more in keeping with the needs of the school's teaching and admin staff while reducing its carbon footprint.

Approach:

The school deployed:

- HP Neoware Thin clients
- ProLiant servers with VMware
- ProCurve wired and wireless networks

IT improvements:

- Deployment time reduced from two hours to five minutes.
- Thin clients much easier to monitor and manage than PCs.
- Increased security as users cannot introduce their own software.

Business benefits:

- Nearly 90 per cent reduction in electricity consumption.
- Large overall cost reductions including total cost of ownership.
- Five-year as opposed to three-year replacement cycle.
- Thin clients and servers much faster than PCs.
- Much less downtime than before.
- Quieter operation in classrooms because of no fans in terminals.



Founded in the city of York, UK in 1823 as a school for the children of Quakers, Bootham School now has staff and students from a variety of different religions and denominations but its cornerstone remains Quaker values.

In today's world Bootham uses the best of modern technology for teaching and administration, but is deeply concerned at the potential environmental impact and a student-led body focuses on reducing the school's carbon footprint.

So when it was time to refresh the school's IT infrastructure including 20 servers and more than

Customer solution at a glance

Primary hardware

- 65 x HP Neoware e90 Thin Clients
- 35 x HP Neoware m100 Thin Clients
- 4 x HP DL385 ProLiant Servers

Primary software

- VMware
- HP Terminal Services
- Microsoft Office

140 desktop and laptop PCs, environmental issues were a major consideration alongside cost, efficiency and manageability.

"After exploring the available options it was decided a server-based thin client solution would best suit the school's stringent requirements, and the HP Neoware Thin Clients were simply the best on the market in terms of price, performance and even appearance," explains Steven Wright, IT manager at Bootham School.

Reliability and cost effectiveness

HP equipment was also chosen for the majority of the new IT infrastructure. Wright says; "We have found HP products meet our requirements time after time. We buy HP hardware because it is incredibly reliable and very cost effective and the HP partners we work with are able to advise very well on what will fit our needs."

To date the school has purchased a mixture of HP Neoware e90 and m100 thin clients with the desktop e90 terminals and the m100 notebook terminals running off ProCurve from HP wired and wireless networks respectively. Four powerful HP ProLiant DL385 servers running in a VMware cluster now do the work of the 20 machines they replaced as well as hosting applications and data for access by the thin clients.

Reduced carbon footprint

"This had made a tremendous difference to our carbon footprint with the Thin clients only using 25W of energy as opposed to 240W for PCs. We have seen a reduction in the amount of air-conditioning needed for the servers which themselves are using much less electricity," says Wright. "The HP Neoware terminals are also configured to switch themselves off at night rather than being on standby."

Wright continues; "The bursar is delighted because the terminals cost about the same as PCs but have a five-year rather than three-year life cycle, as well as being easier and less costly to maintain. From the IT point of view, Wright and his team can set up a terminal out of the box in five minutes as opposed to several hours for a PC. Unlike PCs, thin-client terminals do not have moving parts such as fans and disk drives which are subject to wear and tear and need regularly replacing.

"From the point of view of the staff and students there is not a great deal of difference in that the HP Neoware Thin Clients can do everything required of them by the school, yet the IT team can run all the same applications and software from the servers. The major difference for users is that the networks are significantly faster and the extra reliability means less downtime," concludes Wright.



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