

Low-cost computing for business

Training Center passes environmental certification

Challenge

Deliver a computing solution powerful enough to run a technical training center, while meeting a tight budget and high performance, reliability, and environmental standards.

Solution

Deploy L-series access devices connected across the network to servers running Windows Server 2003.

Impact

NComputing was the only technology to meet stringent environmental standards without compromising the performance in the training rooms.

Partner

This NComputing solution was managed by NCPT – DISTRIBUIÇÃO INFORMÁTICA, UNIPESSOAL LDA, NComputing distributor in Portugal, and deployed by NUMERMÁXIMO – TECNOLOGIAS INOVADORAS, LDA their reseller and partner for this deal.

The Training Centre at Edirede – Sistemas Inteligentes Lda., located near Coimbra, Portugal, provides training facilities for applications including Microsoft and Autodesk products, and is also an authorized Cisco training centre. The facility has multiple training rooms accommodating up to 50 participants. Edirede were looking to expand their IT infrastructure to accommodate multiple applications, reduce ongoing maintenance costs, and ensure that the technology meets the demands of future training and IT courses. But the Training Centre set a high technical standard for their training room equipment, as the reliability and performance of the equipment were essential to deliver high-quality software training. So when the company went through its environmental certification process, Edirede feared that the Training Center would be removed from the certification, as they could not compromise on equipment performance to meet environmental standards.



The training center uses NComputing L-series to offer excellent performance at a sustainable price.

Comparing the market

The IT department at Edirede reviewed various options to ensure that the solution they purchased met the needs of the business. They were looking for an environmentally friendly, ergonomic, powerful product that was reliable and easy to install and manage within a limited budget. They assessed standard PCs and also looked into a number of virtualisation technologies to achieve their low total cost of ownership goals. They tested HP and Wyse thin clients, in addition to the NComputing L-series.

“We were in the process of applying for the Environment Certification for our main building and were concerned that we would have to leave the Training Centre out of the application. When we reviewed all of the solutions available to us, we found that NComputing was the only solution that offered us the environmental benefits without compromising the quality or performance of our training classes or our budget,” explained Mr. Hugo Calisto of Edirede.

Saving money, time, and the environment

The NComputing solution is based on a simple fact: today’s computers are so powerful that the vast majority of applications only use a small fraction of their capacity. NComputing’s virtualization software and hardware tap this unused capacity so that multiple users can simultaneously share it. Each user’s monitor, keyboard, and mouse connect to the shared computer through a small and very durable NComputing access device. The access device itself has no CPU, memory, or moving parts so it is rugged, durable, and easy to deploy and maintain.

Each L-series device connects across a standard Ethernet network and can be located any distance from the shared computer. This gives Edirede ultimate flexibility and ease in setting them up. Their deployment included 2 servers running Microsoft Windows Server 2003, from which 50 L-series devices connect to equip the entire Training Centre. With no moving parts or storage on the L-series devices, repairs are rare and Edirede’s ongoing maintenance costs are minimised to that of the two servers.

“I worked with NComputing solutions at my previous company, and in the space of 7 years we only had to replace one access device. The reliability and overall total cost of ownership made this solution stand head and shoulders above the competition,” added Mr. Calisto.

A typical PC consumes approximately 115 watts of power or more, whereas the L-series device consumes just 5 watts, is half the size of a paperback book, generates no heat, and makes no noise, thereby reducing Edirede’s power consumption and electricity bills. From an environmental perspective, these credentials made a positive impact on the Environmental Certification application.

Looking forward

The NComputing solution is currently being used for Edirede’s technical training in operating systems, networking, and Autodesk products. The feedback from the trainers and participants has been so positive that Edirede are now planning to roll out additional L-series access devices in their Cisco technical training rooms.

