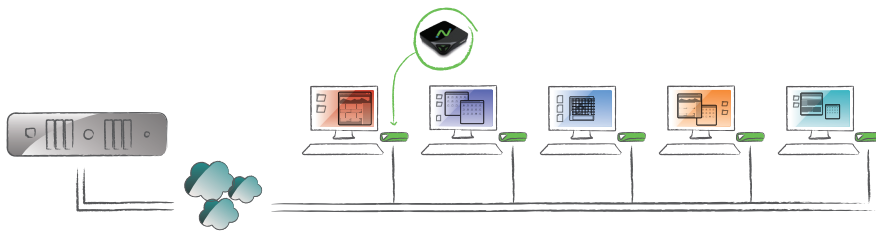


Southwestern Jefferson County Schools deploy more than 400 virtual desktops

Southwestern Jefferson County School District (SJCS) is located in Hanover, Indiana, population approximately 3,600, and serves a district-wide population of approximately 9,400 people including Hanover College. The curriculum is comprehensive in nature and hosts many programs and opportunities for students. Teachers and students recognize computer technology as a core component in today's economy and are increasingly relying on classroom computer infrastructure for innovative, technology-driven education.



The L230 series provides all the features needed for a rich virtual desktop experience including a USB port for connecting storage devices, a microphone port, and more color depth for an even better user experience.

Aging PCs and a limited budget

In this frenzy of innovation and information technology, education facilities are seeking to maximize student learning by granting students more access to learning software and educational websites. The SJCS had significant demand from students and teachers requesting additional workstations to provide more opportunities to conduct research and write. Classrooms were equipped with out-dated PCs, many of which became non-operational and obsolete after 3 years. As with most schools, Southwestern Jefferson's budget for purchasing new PCs was limited as was the size of the district's IT staff, who would be responsible for implementing new machines and applications. Marvin Reece, Director of Technology explains, "As the only IT tech support for 3 schools and 1400 students I knew it would be out of the question to purchase new PCs due to cost, time, and added work load." The SJCS faced a challenge common to schools today—find a way to provide computing access to more students and extend the use of green technologies in the most cost-effective manner. The SJCS needed to find a computing solution that would address its rapidly aging classroom PC infrastructure and be affordable, eco-friendly, and reliable at the same time.

Innovative upgrade

Seeking solutions that were cost effective, the IT department conducted a number of studies and comparisons of desktop virtualization solutions. They were looking for a solution that would be innovative, affordable, and simple to install and manage. They assessed Microsoft's Remote Desktop Services and many other virtual desktop solutions but found that these offerings were not innovative enough and only delivered a portion of the desktop virtualization solution rather than the complete end-to-end experience.

Challenge

Replace rapidly aging PC infrastructure and provide more computing access to students across the district on a limited budget.

Solution

Deploy 375 L230 virtual desktops, 30 X300 virtual desktops, and 25 host servers to create over 400 workstations

Impact

Reduced deployment costs by more than half; ongoing maintenance savings of 75%; PC power savings of over 90%; and eliminated heat and space problems in the labs.

Choosing NComputing

To address these challenges, the SJCSJ sought the expertise of NComputing to purchase and deploy 375 L230 virtual desktops, 30 X300 virtual desktops, and 25 PC-class Servers to create more than 400 workstations. More students than ever now had access to learning software and educational websites, creating a ratio of 26 users to 1 host computer in each of the labs at the high school and middle school and a ratio of 15 users to 1 host computer in each of the labs at the elementary schools.

Southwestern Jefferson chose the NComputing solution for its software (vSpace desktop management), and unified protocol (UXP and hardware devices). NComputing's desktop virtualization deployments are simple, fast, and affordable. It provides all the components required for a complete desktop virtualization solution and can be rapidly deployed without taking on significant demand and project risk.

Today's PCs are so powerful that the majority of applications only use a small fraction of the computer's capacity. NComputing's virtual desktop devices and vSpace™ virtualization software tap into this unused capacity so that multiple students can simultaneously share an operating system as if it was their own unique desktop session. Each student's monitor, keyboard, and mouse connect to the shared PC through a small and very durable NComputing virtual desktop device. The access device itself has no CPU, memory, or moving parts—so it's rugged, reliable, and easy to deploy and maintain.

NComputing L230s costs less than half the price of entry-level PCs and the ongoing cost savings are even higher. With no moving parts or local storage, repairs are rare and maintenance costs are kept in check because virtual desktops never require updates. The central PC is the only infrastructure that needs to be updated and maintained.

Saving time and money

Since the deployment of the NComputing solution, the SJCSJ's acquisition costs have been reduced by over 50%, ongoing management savings have been reduced by over 75%; and PC power savings have been reduced by over 90%. Reducing the amount of electricity that is consumed by the PCs and monitors has considerably reduced the heat and noise in the labs, keeping the room cool without the need for additional air conditioning. The solution has also brought significant benefits in terms of time and labor. As Mr. Reece explained, "NComputing has enabled additional computing access that we could not have otherwise afforded, both monetarily and through more efficient use of human resources. The impact has been so great that when state mandated tests were being conducted, the test administrator in charge commented that the NComputing solution made online test administration a very achievable goal, something that has been a significant challenge for schools."

"NComputing is a fantastic solution and has allowed us to do more than we could have ever hoped to do before."

Marvin Reece
Director of Technology
Southwestern Jefferson
County Schools