

AI Ekhaa School Selects NComputing & SystemRapid to Provide VDI to 1,600 Students

The AI Ekhaa School in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia has selected NComputing, the world's fastest growing desktop virtualization company and provider of affordable desktop computing solutions, to deliver virtual computers to its four computer labs and three educational resource centers throughout the campus. Initially, the computer labs and educational resource rooms, consisting of approximately 45-50 desktop PCs in all, enabled access to the 1600 plus students enrolled at AI Ekhaa. That's a ratio of only one computer for every 35 students. With a growing student population, AI Ekhaa sought to find a computing solution that would replace the obsolete PCs and provide the maximum number of computer seats in each lab at an affordable purchase price, with low ongoing maintenance costs.

Obsolete PCs were not the right fit

The existing computer labs were equipped with out-dated, standalone towers that occupied most of the limited desk space available, hindering student learning. Over the years electricity issues had caused surges and obstructive damage to the desktops that resided in both the computer labs and educational resource rooms. In the past, AI Ekhaa used various solutions such as stabilizers to secure the desktop PCs and resolve the damage caused by electrical surges. However, given that the stabilizers could only secure a maximum of 5-6 PCs, the power supply units on the remaining desktops required either replacement or ongoing maintenance. As a result it became crucial and time sensitive for AI Ekhaa to find a way to upgrade their existing computer architecture and find a solution that was efficient and affordable.



Confident in the NComputing solution

AI Ekhaa assessed traditional thin clients but found that these solutions were complex and required third-party hardware components, adding to the overall cost. After conducting extensive testing of NComputing's U170 access devices, AI Ekhaa was relieved that they had found a solution to their problem. For their initial deployment, AI Ekhaa turned to SystemRapid, a leading NComputing reseller in the Middle East, to purchase 40 U170 access devices. NComputing systems were cost effective and secure allowing them to provide updated computer technology to more users on the school network. In addition, the NComputing systems were compatible with existing applications, reliable, and easy to manage. Impressed with the results, AI Ekhaa also purchased 7 L300 network devices and 1 PC to replace the 8 obsolete PCs present

Challenge

Replace old PCs to enable new software applications on a limited budget.

Solution

Deploy 40 U170 and 8 L300 network devices from NComputing and SystemRapid to create a ratio of 7 users to 1 host computer.

Impact

Realized 70% savings in electricity; reduced heat and space problems by over 50%; and decreased acquisition and maintenance costs.

Partner



SystemRapid, a leading NComputing reseller in the Middle East, assisted AI Ekhaa with their installation.

in the staff educational resource room. Sajid Saleh Hafesjee, Senior Technical Consultant at SystemRapid explains "NComputing provided us with the ideal solution to deliver to our client given the difficult situation they were in. The simplicity of NComputing devices and ease with which they can be set up will give us the flexibility to deploy additional L300 access devices throughout the campus."

The NComputing solution is based on a simple fact: Today PCs are so powerful that the vast majority of students only use a small fraction of the computer's capacity. NComputing desktop virtualization taps this unused capacity so that it can be simultaneously used by many students. Each student connects their own monitor, keyboard, and mouse to an NComputing device, which is then connected to the shared PC. Each student gets a full PC experience. The NComputing devices are easy to deploy, rugged, and only use 1 watt of electricity.

The technology of NComputing assisted AI Ekhaa in overcoming infrastructure challenges including limited energy and power resources. Since the deployment of the NComputing desktop virtualization solution real metrics have been calculated. For instance, electricity costs have been reduced by 70% as NComputing's access devices are environmentally friendly and consume only 5 watts of electricity. In addition the amount of heat that is consumed by the PCs and monitors has been reduced by over 50% keeping the room cool without the need for additional air conditioning. Finally the L300 and vSpace software has been designed and developed in such a way to allow customers including AI Ekhaa to integrate and extend their existing PC desktop environment with VMware. It is this pragmatic and interoperable approach that is required to deliver low-cost VDI deployment.

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Sajid Saleh Hafesjee
Senior Technical Consultant
SystemRapid



Setting a path to a better future

Saudi Arabia continues to invest in education as a means to develop a knowledge-based economy. AI Ekhaa is committed to providing widespread and affordable access to computing in education and believes that granting students with access to computers will teach and empower the next generation of Saudi Arabia's work force. The success of the NComputing solution has given AI Ekhaa the confidence to deploy more U170 and L300 access devices where they are needed across campus, providing innovative and high performance technology to more students.