Low-cost computing for education

Polish school prepares rural students for technology economy

Challenge

Prepare students for a technology economy by building computer labs with a very limited budget.

Solution

Use the NComputing X-series to provide computing access for more than 600 elementary and high school students.

Impact

Students now have reliable computing access. The school plans to expand its computer lab by deploying more NComputing virtual desktops.

Belzyce, Poland is rich with 600 years of history. Nearly 7,000 people live in this rural town, located in the southeastern part of the country. The population was devastated by World War II and has climbed back slowly ever since. The town is a minor agricultural center in the midst of a country that is enjoying a high-tech boom.

In today's economy, information technology plays a central role in education. "Education is a priority here. Parents realize that schools need to prepare their children for the realities of the 21st century—new realities where the internet and computing are part of everyday life," explains Zbigniew Dygus, headmaster of Pope John Paul II School Complex in Belzyce.

Students work on the NComputing X-series virtual desktops.

Preparing students for the 21st century

The first step into the 21st century for the Belzyce school was taken when the school management decided to create modern computer labs that would serve over 600 students in the elementary and high school complex. But the school's funds and resources were very limited. "We started to look for a solution, that would be affordable and reliable at the same time. At a fraction of a regular PC cost, NComputing's virtual desktops turned out to be the best choice," says Jaroslaw Kruczynski, IT Manager at the Belzyce school.

"Low purchase and maintenance costs, as well as reliability, are major factors for schools and educational centers across Poland. NComputing solutions fit perfectly into our needs and financial constraints."

JAROSLAW KRUCZYNSKI
IT MANAGER
POPE JOHN PAUL II SCHOOL COMPLEX

The power of sharing

The NComputing solution is based on a simple fact: today's PCs are so powerful that the vast majority of educational applications use only a small fraction of the computer's capacity. NComputing's virtualization hardware and software taps this unused capacity so that it can be simultaneously shared by many users.

Each NComputing X-seeries virtual desktop kit adds 5 additional users to one PC. Two X-seeries kits enable up to 11 students to use a single PC simultaneously. Each X-seeries kit includes a PCI card and small access devices that connect to the PCI card via regular CAT5 cables. The kits are very easy to deploy and maintain. And each student enjoys their own independent computing experience.

An ideal solution

Thanks to the school management's initiative and the revolutionary economics of the NComputing solution, the school and students started the year with a newly equipped computer lab. NComputing also reduced other significant expenses, including electricity. The devices only consume 1 watt of electricity—compared to 110 watts for a typical PC—for a 90% savings in energy costs.

"We already plan to expand our computer lab and install additional NComputing access devices. NComputing made this all possible because their virtual PCs are easy to deploy, reliable, and affordable for anyone," says Mr. Kruczynski. "Low purchase and maintenance costs, as well as reliability, are major factors for schools and educational centers across Poland. NComputing solutions fit perfectly into our needs and financial constraints."

Thanks to low-cost virtual PC technology from NComputing, Belzyce students now have regular access to computing. It expands their knowledge of the world, delivers better results at school, and prepares them for everyday life in the present and future. This is the beginning of a computing revolution, starting in a region that was once the least developed in the country. Kruczynski summarizes, "NComputing introduced us to a solution that meets our needs and is much more affordable than dedicated PCs. We are a small town, and this is our chance to affordably provide our children with access to computing and the internet."

WINNER THE WALL STREET JOURNAL Technology Innovation Award

District Administration Readers' Choice top 100 products

Gartner CLIENT COMPUTING Cool Vendor Award

CeBIT Server-Based Computing Award

©Copyright 2003-2009. NComputing, Inc. All rights reserved. NComputing is the property of NComputing. Other trademarks and trade names are the property of their respective owners. Specifications subject to change without notice. Performance may vary, depending on the configuration of the shared computer.