

Low-cost computing for education.

CPSK promotes education through IT

Challenge

Find a cost-effective way to provide ICT facilities for government and other schools in Kenya, where budget and facilities are extremely limited.

Solution

NComputing and their X-series virtual desktops, which are easy to install and simple to operate, to provide computer access in primary school computer labs.

Impact

Providing over 10 times more computers than CPSK was able to provide before.

Partner

Academia supplies software and licensing, hardware and training solutions to UK academic institutions and charitable organizations.

academia
IT solutions for the next generation

Computers for Primary Schools Kenya (CPSK) is a registered charity that sets up computer labs in government and non-fee paying primary schools. Their main objectives are to promote education through the use of ICT and to address the problems caused by sensory deprivation. Because of limited budgets, class sizes at these schools can be as high as 125 students with little or no access to textbooks or even a suitable physical learning environment. These children do not get the interaction with colours, shapes, sounds, and images that most children around the world take for granted.



It is amazing how quickly pupils who have never even heard of a mouse learn how to use computers.

Charity needs to make limited funds stretch further

CPSK faces tough challenges as funding for these projects is very limited while the demand for access to ICT is high. The large number of students in each class and the limited trained resources available for the installation and maintenance of equipment means that a true solution must demonstrate value for money, ease of installation and reliability.

**“This will open
up a new world of
possibilities”**

VERONICA ASHBY
FOUNDER
COMPUTERS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS
KENYA

NComputing virtual desktops provide sustainability and independence

CPSK chose the NComputing X-series virtual desktops as the best solution for their clustered users. The NComputing solution works because today's PCs are so powerful that the vast majority of applications only use a small fraction of the computer's capacity. NComputing's hardware and vSpace™ virtualisation software taps into this unused capacity so that it can be simultaneously shared by multiple students. Each student's monitor, keyboard, and mouse connect to the shared PC through a small and very durable NComputing access device. The access device itself has no CPU, memory, or moving parts – so it's rugged, reliable, and easy to deploy and maintain. By spreading out the cost of the shared computer, schools can provide more stations for the same money.

“We looked at a number of traditional thin-client solutions, many of which offered a range of benefits, but none of them offered the simplicity and functionality that NComputing delivers,” states Veronica Ashby, founder of CPSK.

Foundations for Kenyan children to achieve greater success

The NComputing solution is a perfect fit. The cost of maintaining and replacing a single shared computer has made the project financially sustainable. Implementing projects of this nature will lay down the foundations that will enable Kenyan children to take advantage of educational and job opportunities they ordinarily would not be able to access. NComputing is now playing an important part in helping these children gain access to ICT skills and experiences that will help them increase their chances of success in the future. CPSK is excited about the advantages that using NComputing has already delivered and in using NComputing in more and more facilities.

