

Low-cost computing for higher education.

Virtual desktops make the University of Lisbon's dental school smile

Challenge

Ensure that campus technology is current and easy to maintain.

Solution

Replace outdated PCs with NComputing L-series virtual desktops.

Impact

Reduced need for IT support time by 90%; increased desk space by 80%; realized a 75% savings in electricity.

Partner

Simply Media provided the expertise and support to deploy the solution.

The Faculdade de Medicina Dentaria, at the University of Lisbon, Portugal, prides itself on graduating some of the region's foremost dentists and hygienists. To continue to do this, Medicina Dentaria must keep pace with evolving curriculum and the latest research. But outdated PC labs hold them back. Slow systems and limited PC access frustrate students and can jeopardize the school's ability to stay current.



NComputing virtual desktops bring power consumption down for Lisbon University.

'We knew we had to do something'

Faculdade de Medicina Dentaria struggled with aging PCs and resulting slow access and processing times. The outdated infrastructure also resulted in high power consumption and high temperatures in PC labs. Like other higher education institutions, the IT staff considered replacing their existing labs with new PCs. "We knew we had to do something," explained Jose Seabra, Headteacher. "We couldn't slow our students down with old PCs. Not in today's world where they're expected to be able to access the latest information via the web and complete tests and assignments on the computer."

The dental school also wanted to be able to cost-effectively upgrade software on their PCs without the hassle and downtime they usually encountered. They evaluated a traditional PC replacement model but realized that they wouldn't see any improvement in efficiency or maintenance. And the acquisition price for replacement PCs would consume the entire year's budget.

“We will never buy PCs again!”

JOSE SEABRA
HEADTEACHER
FACULDADE DE MEDICINA DENTARIA
UNIVERSITY OF LISBON, PORTUGAL

Cost savings make school officials believers

Faculdade de Medicina Dentaria chose NComputing virtual desktops over traditional PCs when Simplymedia, a local partner, outlined the cost savings and other benefits. Not only would the school be able to deploy more desktops for the same price, they would also see a reduction in power consumption and maintenance costs.

“We were hooked,” said Jose. “I honestly believe we will never buy PCs again! With so many benefits from the NComputing virtual desktops, I can’t imagine going back to the old way of doing things.”

The NComputing solution is based on the fact that today’s PCs are so powerful that the vast majority of applications only use a small fraction of the computer’s capacity. NComputing’s virtualization software and hardware tap this unused capacity so that multiple users can simultaneously share it. This allows Faculdade de Medicina Dentaria to outfit the school with the latest technology at a substantially lower cost.

‘Clean and green is right for us’

With the NComputing L-series virtual desktops, Faculdade de Medicina Dentaria was able to turn one server into 15 workstations for student use. The school immediately saw real cost savings: 90% reduction in the need for IT support, 80% reduction in desk space requirements for labs, and a 75% savings in power usage.

“We will definitely be deploying additional NComputing terminals in the dental school,” continued Jose. “Not only has it helped me go further with my same budget, it’s also a green technology. Very well suited for a medical school like ours.”

