

Low-cost computing for education.

Remscheid gets it all with virtual desktops

Challenge

Cost-effectively provide more Internet workstations in a complex infrastructure of Linux-based servers and Windows-based PCs, notebooks and netbooks.

Solution

Deploy NComputing virtual desktops along with extensive learning software.

Impact

Saved classroom space and energy, while providing easy-to-configure Internet workstations for student access.

Partner

Schwarz Computer Systeme GmbH deployed this solution.

SCHWARZ
COMPUTER SYSTEME

Limited space and budget for computers is a common complaint in schools around the globe, and Germany's Remscheid schools are no exception. Replacing existing PCs taxes the school IT budget and increasing the number of computers to meet student and teachers demands means higher electricity costs and more crowded classrooms. Making any new deployment at Remscheid even more challenging—and sometimes more expensive—is a complex infrastructure of Linux-based servers and Windows-based computers including PCs, notebooks and netbooks.



Remscheid students go green with NComputing.

'We wanted it all'

Schwarz Computer Systeme GmbH worked with Remscheid to assess their needs and to determine if NComputing was the right solution. Priorities for the school district include space savings as classrooms are small and desk space is at a premium. They are also committed to lowering energy costs and impact on the environment. Ultimately, Remscheid wants more of their students to have access to internet terminals to access learning software and educational websites. And it has to be affordable and easy to set up and maintain. "Essentially, we wanted it all," says Frank Salamon from the Department for School and Education – Stadt Remscheid.

“NComputing fit perfectly into our complicated infrastructure”

MR. FRANK SALAMON
DEPARTMENT FOR SCHOOL AND
EDUCATION – STADT REMSCHEID

NComputing: The right fit

With Remscheid’s goals in mind, Schwarz recommended a combination of NComputing’s award-winning X-series and L-series virtual desktops. 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 tap into this unused capacity so that it can be simultaneously shared by multiple students. Each pupil’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.

The NComputing virtual desktop’s low cost and ease of use make it the right fit for Remscheid. The school deployed X-series and L-series virtual desktops in classrooms and computer labs, for students and teachers. “I was impressed with the system overall,” explained Frank Salamon. “We have a complicated infrastructure and NComputing fit in perfectly.”

Environment and budget-friendly upgrade

At one to five watts per user, Remscheid appreciated the environmental benefits of NComputing’s green computing solution. But they were also impressed with the impact these benefits had on their budgets. NComputing access devices draw only 3% of the electricity used by traditional PCs, dramatically reducing the school’s energy bills along with its carbon footprint. The solid-state units also produce virtually no heat, eliminating the need for air conditioning and further reducing energy bills and carbon emissions.

Also interested in reducing their e-waste, Remscheid was happy to learn that since NComputing’s access devices last approximately ten years and weigh less than 150 grams, they are equivalent to half a percent of the waste generated by traditional PCs during the same time period.

Salamon concluded, “With these kinds of results we’ll have broad deployment across our campuses very soon.”

