

Low-cost computing for education.

SEEVIC College meets and exceeds student needs for IT access

Challenge

Increase computer access for a constantly growing student body with a decreasing IT budget.

Solution

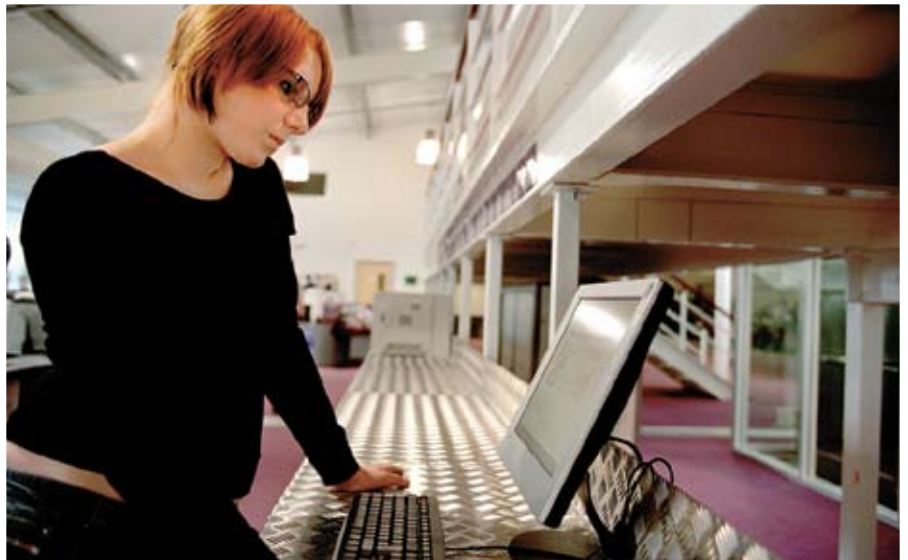
Deploy NComputing's L-series solution to provide virtual desktops in 10 rooms on 2 campuses.

Impact

Realised cost savings in maintenance, provided greater access to students, ensured that teachers can instruct utilizing IT and better prepared students for a modern workplace.

SEEVIC College prides itself on how quickly it responds to changing business needs. Workplace demands have evolved rapidly, and so has the college's curriculum. Since its establishment in 1972, the Essex, UK-based college has provided students, from age 16 to adults, with a wide range of programmes including A Levels, BTECs, and work-based learning opportunities that include apprenticeships, Train to Gain, Skills for Life, custom programmes, and more.

The demand for IT skills in the workplace is growing unabated, and SEEVIC College is committed to ensuring access to IT for all 2,900 students. In fact, the college has been recognized for excellence in teaching and learning with thorough planning and imaginative use of information learning technology by OFSTED (the government department that is responsible for school standards inspections). But with 12% growth in student enrollment, keeping up with student access needs and computer refresh cycles has taxed the IT budget.



SEEVIC College students require the latest technology to remain competitive in the workforce.

More students, less budget

SEEVIC College's past IT plan was to replace computers every six years, longer than the usual four years. An extended lifecycle means that students often have to use old hardware. Also, as enrollment grows and budgets are tightened, some computers have been pressed into serving for longer than six years. Old hardware means increased maintenance costs and more time from the college's IT support staff. SEEVIC College needs a solution that brings down the hardware maintenance costs and provides more computer access for their growing student body while staying within budget.

“NComputing has enabled SEEVIC College teachers to more effectively deliver the latest curriculum.”

Desktop virtualisation keeps students connected

SEEVIC College conducted a thorough evaluation to determine the best solution for their students needs. They reviewed several traditional thin-client solutions. They also reviewed NComputing L-series virtual desktops. SEEVIC found traditional thin clients to be too expensive when all of the solution components were factored in. Many also did not support the use of memory sticks, a student requirement.

NComputing’s L-series virtual desktop provide SEEVIC College with the perfect mix of affordability and performance. NComputing’s hardware and vSpace™ virtualisation software make full use of the computing capacity of the host so that a single operating system on low-end server can be used to deliver 30 virtual desktops. Each student’s monitor, keyboard, and mouse connect to the shared host 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, incredibly energy efficient and easy to deploy and maintain.

SEEVIC College deployed hundreds of NComputing L-series devices on their two campuses. The NComputing solution allowed the college IT team to phase out the expensive-to-maintain older PCs and replace them with centrally-managed, resource-efficient, virtual desktops. This dramatically reduces overall maintenance costs and ensures that SEEVIC College can continue to meet growing student needs.

College and students excel with NComputing

While SEEVIC College’s goals were to achieve a 3:2 student-to-computer ratio, NComputing enabled them to achieve a 2:1 ratio while staying within the college’s tight IT budget. Such broad availability enables teachers to effectively deliver curriculum using IT. Students are now using newer PCs with more current applications and processes, ensuring that they are well prepared for the expectations of a modern workplace. And by eliminating inefficient older PCs, the college is exceeding expectations for an environmentally-friendly IT program.

