

Low-cost computing for education

School complex in Poland offers wide-scale access to computers

Challenge

Offer career potential to students in a small school system on par with that available in larger cities.

Solution

Deploy NComputing L-series access devices across the school complex to provide access to computing and the Internet.

Impact

Greatly improved student-to-computer ratio, while saving money on purchase, support, and electrical costs.

The small town of Twardogóra, Poland is home to 8,000 residents. Many of the 600 students of the Twardogóra School Complex want the same career opportunities as they would receive in the country's larger cities.

"We realize that today's education has dramatically changed from what it was just 10 years ago," said Dominik Rypinski, IT manager at Twardogóra School Complex. "Internet access and IT skills play a huge part in the education and development of our children. We want to offer our children in Twardogóra equal chances for higher education and job opportunities as those their counterparts in larger schools receive. Having access to computers is critical in this process."



The NComputing computer lab is reliable and energy efficient.

Metropolitan education in small schools

In order to bring computer education to its students, Twardogóra School Complex first deployed 100 desktops and laptops in several classrooms and computer labs, and their student's classroom performance improved. "We consider the ratio of 1 computer to 6 students a great start," said Rypinski. "However, this ratio is still insufficient and was too expensive to maintain." The school decided to look for a better solution, with a long-term goal of providing a computer for every student while keeping within the school's limited budget.

“The cost of the solution allowed us to stretch our budget and create more computer labs.”

DOMINIK RYPINSKI
IT MANAGER
TWARDOGÓRA SCHOOL COMPLEX

A world-class solution

The school complex discovered that NComputing’s L-series virtual desktops could solve their computing needs at an affordable price. “Low acquisition costs and easy maintenance, combined with high product reliability were major factors for our schools when choosing our new computing solution,” explained Rypinski. “NComputing is a perfect fit for the needs of schools and other educational centers.”

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™ virtualization software tap 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 many times the number of stations for the same money.

“NComputing is the best solution for Twardogóra. NComputing presented the school management team with an affordable solution that was easy to deploy. Moreover, the reliable and tiny access devices allowed us to not only make the most of the limited space to add more computing access in classrooms, but the cost of the solution allowed us to stretch our budget and create more computer labs,” said Rypinski.

Benefits beyond computing access

Twardogóra deployed 300 computing seats by using the NComputing L-series and just 10 PCs. Combined with the school’s existing 100 laptops, they now have 400 computing seats to serve their 600 students, while slashing overall costs by 70%.

The schools quickly realized an additional benefit—a 90% reduction in electrical costs. “This is very good news for our school,” said Anna Siwa, headmaster of Twardogóra High School. “We need make sure that we make the most of our budget. Wasting money on electricity bills would be foolish when a solution like NComputing exists.”

Thanks to NComputing, computers and the Internet will now be a part of everyday life for students attending classes at Twardogóra schools. “There is plenty of room for expansion in the future. This means that access to computing and the Internet for every student will soon become a trademark of the Twardogóra School Complex,” explained Rypinski.

