With help from integraONE, VMware and HP technology, East Stroudsburg Area School District has a new virtualized infrastructure and disaster recovery site and has cut cooling costs in half, and increased IT efficiency by at least 30%, while providing their students, teachers and administrators with an enterprise-level server, storage and virtualization solution to meet their computing needs.





"integraONE doesn't just sell equipment, they provide solutions, and the right-sized solutions for the right job in a cost-effective manner. With integraONE and the highly innovative HP and VMware products, we obtained a solution that went above and beyond meeting our needs," Brian Borosh, Director of Technology ---East Stroudsburg Area School District.

School District Overview

The East Stroudsburg Area School District, a diverse and rapidly growing organization, nurtures within all students a commitment to excellence and life-long learning.

Located in Eastern Pennsylvania, the district spans over two counties, Monroe and Pike, an area of over 214 square miles. Serving six elementary schools, two intermediate schools, two high schools, and a total of 7,800 students, the ESASD is the 25th largest school district in the state of Pennsylvania out of the 500 school districts located there.

Challenges

In previous, years, ESASD maintained a large amount of physical servers with extensive hardware needs and a near one-to-one physical server to application ratio and had only virtualized servers on a small scale. The IT staff wanted to increase virtualization technology to not only save on the limited amount of storage space and electricity costs, but also to dramatically increase server productivity for their end users, particularly the students, teachers and administrators.

In upgrading their virtual platform, ESASD also wanted to provide more efficient technological outlets for their end users, such as allowing remote access to applications and shared documents via virtual servers. In addition, the IT staff at ESASD grew disappointed with their previous disaster recovery infrastructure, which required additional costs to meet their data backup and recovery needs. ESASD wished to upgrade their server, storage and virtualization infrastructure to a more cost-effective and efficient solution.

Solution Snapshot

Hardware:

- 2 HP BladeSystem c7000 Enclosures
- 16 HP BL490c G7 Blade Servers
- 14 HP P4500 G2 SAN nodes
- HP D2D Backup System

Software:

- VMware vSphere Enterprise Plus
- Symantec Backup Exec

integraONE Services:

• Consulting and implementation services

Objectives

- Provide end users, including teachers, administration, and students with highly available applications, remote access to shared documents, and much-needed storage space that allows them to provide their students a quality educational environment.
- Procure a cost-effective yet reliable disaster recovery solution.
- Increase IT efficiency.

Approach

- Jointly work with integraONE to create an innovative IT system that takes advantage of server, storage and virtualization technology that provides users with more flexibility and data protection.
- "integraONE was able to meet our complex design needs. The new HP hardware is enterprise-class and has performed admirably thus far. We look forward to a long and successful relationship with HP, VMware and integraONE," —Manvel Page and Edwin Malave—Systems Administrators—East Stroudsburg Area School District.
- Purchase HP products through integraONE that allow ESASD to meet their end user needs quickly and easily from both within the district and offsite.
- Increase storage capacity to meet end user's needs and allow for future growth.
- Build a cost-effective and reliable disaster recovery site, reducing potential disaster recovery time from days to hours.

Impact

IT Improvements:

- Decreased physical server management time and increased IT staff productivity by 30%, allowing them to devote more time to offering more services instead of concentrating on hardware fixes and maintenance.
- Consolidate more servers through virtualization, allowing applications to be created quickly, thereby improving efficiency and end-user satisfaction.

Business Improvements:

- Reduced electrical usage on server/storage infrastructure by 50%.
- Upgraded disaster recovery site, located 18 miles from the data center, provides data security and backup that now takes 1-3 hours for disaster recovery instead of 24+ hours.
- New/upgraded applications are provided to end users faster, helping to increase their productivity..

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