



Kennet School

ATLANTIS COMPUTING REMOVES COST BARRIER TO VIRTUALIZED DESKTOP ENVIRONMENT IN BRITISH SCHOOL



Atlantis USX, a software-defined storage solution has paved the way for Kennet School to virtualize its desktops and **improve the learning experience** for 1,800 pupils.

In classrooms right across the UK, IT is playing an increasingly vital role in the delivery of effective teaching and learning. Yet, the applications that teachers want to use are becoming far more resource-intensive, which places an incredible strain not only on desktop performance, but also on storage capacity. Kennet School in West Berkshire found that it needed to allocate 70% of its annual IT budget to buying higher performance desktops each year. Furthermore, in just 24 months, pupils and staff consumed 12 terabytes of additional storage, leaving the school with barely enough storage capacity for the next academic year.

£200 COST SAVING PER DESKTOP

Kennet School had already virtualized its server environment using VMware solutions and was keen to extend this strategy by using VMware to virtualize its desktops and storage as well. However, its plans were stalled by what at first appeared to be an unsurmountable cost barrier. The price of VMware's virtualized storage network (vSAN) solution was prohibitively high, threatening to put the entire project in jeopardy.

Then, after thorough evaluations, the school's IT partner, 4way Solutions, recommended a software-defined storage solution from Atlantis Computing and proposed a hybrid solution for Kennet School, combining VMware Horizon View with Atlantis USX. "Without Atlantis Computing, I don't think we would have been able to move to a virtualized desktop environment at all," says James Henderson, network administrator at Kennet School. "The cost of the alternative storage approach was £40,000 more than Atlantis for the first 200 desktops alone and was simply too expensive for a school."

CHALLENGES

- Reduce the annual cost of replacing desktops
- Improve desktop performance
- Increase the storage quota available to staff and pupils

SOLUTION

- Atlantis USX

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ACCELERATED DESKTOP PERFORMANCE

The Atlantis software significantly accelerates the performance of virtualized desktops. Indeed, in tests carried out on the proof-of-concept system developed by 4way Solutions, Kennet School recorded around 160 input/output operations per second (IOPS) on its existing desktops, as compared to a staggering 20,000-30,000 IOPS on its new virtualized desktops using Atlantis. Likewise, logons improved dramatically from 60-80 seconds on the traditional desktop to around 25 seconds in the new Atlantis-enabled environment.

4way Solutions is now rolling out virtualized desktops at Kennet School in phases to minimize any disruption for the school's 1,800 pupils and 200 staff. Eventually, all IT users at the school will benefit from faster, more reliable and standardized desktops. "Our new virtualized infrastructure will make a massive difference to the quality of teaching and learning," enthuses Henderson.

COST EFFECTIVE, SCALABLE STORAGE

Every time Kennet School wants to increase its storage capacity, to support more virtual desktops, it simply needs to request an additional node for its existing platform, which is significantly less expensive than buying dedicated storage. As Henderson explains, Kennet School has the flexibility to "add more virtualized storage to the network on demand and take advantage of cheaper disk-based storage products to minimize IT expenditure."

The advanced de-duplication technologies in Atlantis USX optimize the useable storage capacity of each virtual machine. Already, the school has increased the storage quota for users from 4GB to 8GB and, with increasing use of graphics-based packages, video and music applications, this quota can now be extended further if needed.

BETTER USE OF TIME AND MONEY

Kennet School only has three full-time members of staff, responsible for over 1,500 end user devices across several buildings. The simplicity of the Atlantis solution will reduce the amount of time that the IT team has to spend managing storage-related issues and will free technicians up to work on other projects, such as centralized printing and end-user support.

4way Solutions has calculated that, with the new virtual desktop platform, the total cost for Kennet School will be £284 per virtualized desktop, rather than £600-800 for a replacement PC. What is more, the school can re-use its existing, aging stock of PCs and laptops as virtualized clients, extending their life and reducing waste. "Rather than spending 70% of our IT budget replacing desktops year after year, we will only need to allocate 40% of our annual budget to rolling out virtualized desktops," estimates Henderson. "This will enable us to divert 30% of our IT funding to new educational software and cloud services, helping us deliver the best IT experience that we possibly can for pupils and staff."



BENEFITS

- IT spending on desktops reduced by 30%
- £40,000 saving for initial 200 desktops alone
- Desktop performance increased from 160 IOPS to 20,000 IOPS
- Latency reduced from 60+ seconds to less than 1 second
- Storage optimized and scalable to meet future demand

VIRTUALIZED IT ENVIRONMENT

- VMware Horizon View
- Atlantis USX
- Fujitsu CX400 Hyperconverged Server
- Liquidware Labs Profile Unity
- Liquidware Labs Stratosphere
- 670 Desktops
- 650 Laptops
- 127 iMacs
- 200+ Tablets, including iPads

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Network Administrator
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