



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

INDUSTRY: EDUCATION

**CHALLENGE**

RPS needed a server and desktop solution that saved them time and storage space, allowed easy systems monitoring, increased security against computer viruses, and the ability to manage 2500 desktops and 50 servers – and its budget only allowed one chance to do it right.

SOLUTION

RPS engaged VMware and Data Strategy for its IT strategy and realized many savings: several hours each time it implemented new applications, physical server space by consolidating five racks of servers to two racks, the ability to easily monitor their systems and remove computer viruses.

VMWARE AT WORK

- ESX Servers
- DRS
- VMotion
- VDI
- VI clients

DEPLOYMENT ENVIRONMENT

- Windows 2003 and 2008
- HP Blades
- Hitachi SAN
- NetWare
- Microsoft Exchange
- Sharepoint
- OCS
- Novell Cluster

“We used VMware on the server side and our experience with it was great – which persuaded us to try it for desktops. VMware partnered with us and met our most important consideration in choosing a partner - understanding our best interests as a school district. VMware has proven that it cares about the quality of its products and its implementation, which allows us to build a great working relationship.”

Peter Young, Chief Information Officer, Rockford Public Schools

Rockford Public Schools

RPS serves the administrative needs of 8,000 students and 1,000 staff – seven of which are in IT. Those seven IT staff members are responsible for many roles: administrative support, the helpdesk, and being server engineers.

RPS's biggest challenges were managing a large installation and its attendant costs. RPS needed to manage 2500 desktops and 50 servers with its staff of seven; saving space and time; and increasing their security control management and systems monitoring while decreasing their time and effort. As a public school district, budgeting only allowed one chance to find a viable solution. VMware turned out to be the right solution.

At a Data Strategy event, DS introduced VMware's desktop management capabilities to RPS. RPS already used VMware for its servers, with tremendous results. That experience and DS's presentation persuaded RPS to try VMware for its current need: desktop virtualization.

DS introduced a proof of concept for RPS and was completely involved and supportive of RPS's needs. It delivered server equipment and Wyse terminals, built a separate network, and accompanied RPS on a site visit so RPS could see “best practices” for a large installation.

By using VMware, RPS saved countless hours. Before using VMware for desktops, IT staff spent several weekend and after business hours during the week testing new applications on workstations. The virtual machines allow RPS to test new applications quickly, during the day. In addition, keeping their systems secure from computer viruses has never been easier. Because the desktops are virtual machines, if a student accidentally downloads a virus, IT can delete that VM and create a new one, within minutes. Finally, monitoring their environment is as easy as launching a VI client to check on a server, instead of physically going to each and every server. Where many tasks used to take several hours to complete, they now take several minutes.

Results

- Can now manage 2500 desktops and 50 servers
- A total of 350 VDI clients run administrative and multimedia applications; 30 – 50 of those 350 clients support multimedia applications
- 56 VMs on 10 ESX hosts
- IT environment is 75% virtualized
- Have only needed to convert 4 of the 28 new HP Blades into physical servers
- Consolidated 5 racks of servers to 2 blade enclosures in less than 2 racks
- Have not needed to use Disaster Recovery
- Saved application-testing time with VMs
- Have saved power, cooling, and physical storage space

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