



Thin Clients Deliver Application Standardization, Taxpayer Savings



“About three years ago, we had so many aging PCs and support calls that our six-person team was constantly behind. By switching to thin computing, we can cheaply replace outdated machines and support more clients with fewer people, resulting in significant taxpayer savings”

Jeff Doland

Director of Technology, Green School District

Green School District, Green, Ohio

The Green School District, in a suburb of Akron, Ohio, was much the same as other school districts across the country. Faced with countless unsupported applications, drastically different levels of computer expertise, and hundreds of aging PCs, the Green School District IT staff was constantly overextended and over budget.

With approximately 1,300 desktops, the IT staff turned to thin computing to standardize applications, fight malware and drastically cut costs. As a result, the school district is saving hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars while securely delivering cutting-edge multimedia educational applications to students across the district.

Director of Technology Jeff Doland drew on his background in technology consulting to analyze the situation, and knew something had to change.

Challenge: Multimedia and Thin Computing

"We had every problem under the sun," says Doland. "Students and teachers were installing all sorts of applications, and computer viruses appeared everywhere. The cost to support this infrastructure, particularly when our PCs began to age, became a burden."

With a small IT staff to support the district's approximately 1,300 desktops, Doland knew he did not have the resources to manage desktops one at a time. He needed a computing solution that allowed him to deploy desktops quickly – to "plug it in like a phone and have it work."

Solution Architecture

- Wyse Products
 - 650 Wyse thin computing devices
 - Citrix MetaFrame and Microsoft Windows Terminal Server

Doland was also faced with an aging PC lab, and the district's building expansion plans would require even more expensive new PCs that would break his already stretched budget.

"Technology is always behind the scenes, but when you look at the savings, there is no reason why money should be going to support unnecessary IT expenditures, when schools are already struggling to hire teachers and give them enough supplies," says Doland.

Solution: Wyse Thin Computing

In 2002, Doland submitted a plan to the school board to rectify these issues. Under the plan, Doland's IT staff began deploying standardized applications through Citrix and replacing failed PCs with thin clients from Wyse.

"For our end users, it appeared as if nothing had changed at all," says Doland. "We scheduled five minute meetings with each employee in case they had any questions and even that turned out to be unnecessary."

Additionally, the Wyse thin clients support built-in sound cards, which helps Doland deploy multimedia-intensive educational applications for students. And that growing mountain of random applications and viruses? "Gone," says Doland.

Benefits: Return on Investment

Doland replaced the aging PC lab with donated monitors from Federal Express and 35 Wyse thin clients for just a few thousand dollars. And Doland is saving approximately \$135,000 by equipping a new building with Wyse thin clients.

"Return on investment – no question, that's the big one," says Doland. "Beyond the low-acquisition costs, Wyse thin clients save money across the desktop lifecycle by needing replacement less often and requiring substantially less IT staff time for management and deployment."



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