

Case Study

St. Anne School—Laguna Niguel, Calif.

St. Anne School partners with Entisys Public Sector to “Centralize and Virtualize” student computing, adding more than 350 thin clients and Netbooks supported by Citrix® XenServer virtual servers; Citrix XenDesktop and Citrix XenApp to deliver high quality, curriculum-based content.



CUSTOMER PROFILE: St. Anne School is a private Catholic School recognized and within the Diocese of Orange. Located in Laguna Niguel, Calif., St. Anne School was founded as a Christian School in accordance with the Roman Catholic tradition in 1992 by a group of parents, clergy and community leaders. The school serves children of all faiths in Preschool through the 8th grade.

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

The need to cost-effectively replace aging desktop computers and improve student access to educational software applications led St. Anne School leadership to evaluate thin computing terminals supported by virtualization.

In late 2009, Joe Kemp, IT Systems Administrator for St. Anne School, was faced with the prospect of replacing or upgrading 60 aging desktop computers used in grades K-3. “I evaluated several different types of solutions that involved replacing or recycling the existing hardware, but none of them offered the user experience that I was looking for,” said Kemp. “The applications that our students use are designed to provide a rich multimedia experience, and it was important that we choose a technology solution that would support Flash and other multimedia programming languages.”

Among the applications used daily by St. Anne School’s K-3 students are Microsoft® Word, Microsoft PowerPoint and a flash-based instructional application developed by the MIND Research Institute for elementary school students. Additionally, the school leverages some of the most unique and cutting-edge classroom technologies, including interactive white-boards and remote student response systems, or clickers.

“St. Anne School is very progressive when it comes to implementing technologies that are education-driven,” said Randy Adams, Head of School. “Both our parents and our board have high expectations, and one of our primary objectives is to provide our students with state-of-the-art tools and technologies that help them succeed both inside and outside of the classroom.”

Due to the cost associated with routinely replacing and maintaining the desktop computers, as well as the difficulties he experienced in trying

to find a solution that would support St. Anne’s multimedia requirements, Kemp evaluated the possibility of deploying a desktop virtualization solution at the school. More commonly used in corporate environments, Kemp found that virtualization would be able to provide centralized access to student applications, and support multimedia rich applications through Citrix’s HDX™, or High-Definition Experience, technology.

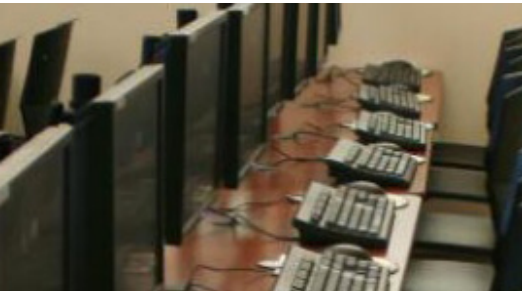
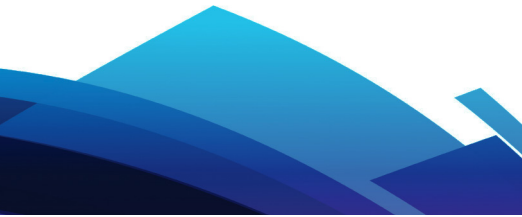
Kemp met with representatives of Entisys Public Sector, the Southern California division of Entisys Solutions, Inc. the West Coast’s #1 provider of enterprise virtualization and access delivery solutions from the datacenter to the desktop. Together, they chose a virtualization solution that leverages Citrix XenServer and Citrix XenDesktop.

THE SOLUTION

Citrix XenServer, XenDesktop and XenApp seamlessly deliver classroom applications; integration of a new media center gives students greater access to technology resources for learning and classroom projects.

In January 2010, K-3 students returned to St. Anne School after the holiday break to find their classroom desktop computers had been replaced with thin clients that offer virtual access to Windows® 7 desktops and all of the classroom applications, through Citrix XenServer and Citrix XenDesktop. Additionally, a computer lab, which had not been used since the school discontinued its digital music program, was now fully-functioning and offering virtual access to the same PC applications found on the classroom terminals.

“The ability to integrate the desktops from our computer lab as



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Innovative Solutions

Each of the K-3 classrooms now houses 4-5 thin clients in the place of the old traditional PCs. Currently, approximately 300 students in grades K-3 are accessing their applications via Citrix XenServer and Citrix XenDesktop, either in their classrooms or from the Mac lab.

“Their sales and technical staff have been very responsive, going above and beyond the call of duty to ensure a smooth transition for our teachers and our students. We are looking forward to working with Entisys Public Sector as we continue to expand on virtualization in the future.”

Joe Kemp, IT Systems Administrator

part of this project is an added bonus,” continued Kemp. “I had initially thought I might have to retire of all of those computers, and I am quite impressed with Citrix’s ability to provide our students seamless access to their classroom applications across both the PC and Mac platforms, using the same licensing agreements.”

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St. Anne School has also completed the second phase of its virtualization technology implementation, and the school library’s new media center now features 42 thin clients supported by Citrix XenDesktop, which offers students seamless access to Windows 7 desktops. The terminals are both cost-effective and offer significant energy savings, as they do not require structured cabling and use approximately 7 watts of power, compared to around 200 watts for traditional desktop computers.

St. Anne School also provides 250 students in grades 6-8 with a personal Netbook computer, for use both on campus and at home. Each Netbook is outfitted with Citrix XenApp, to ensure that the computer is equipped with the latest version of the school’s required software applications, without manual intervention from the IT staff. This not only enriches the user experience by providing seamless access to application and data files, but also prevents the inherent problems associated with downloading and managing local versions of software applications to the Netbook.

KEY BENEFITS

Virtualized desktop computers support faster, more efficient access to classroom applications, while improving student productivity and eliminating downtime.

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“As the father of three children who are working through our modern educational system, it gives me great pride to see the solutions that we are building contribute to the education and inspiration of children at St. Anne School,” Mike Strohl, CEO of Entisys Solutions. “There is nothing that is more important than knowing that we can make a difference in the education they receive, and the futures they will build, and this truly is the real value brought on by virtualization. I am happy to have participated in this process that is now making a difference in the education of these students.”

As a result of its investment in the Citrix XenServer and Citrix XenDesktop the school is saving time and resources due to a reduction in computer down-time and the ease and efficiency of conducting software upgrades within the virtual environment. “Instead of having to install the same software on more than 350 different computers, all I have to do is upgrade it on one virtual desktop – the amount of time saved is well worth the investment,” continued Kemp. “Also, leveraging thin terminals, I no longer am tied to the 3-year average PC replacement cycle, since the thin terminals will effectively operate for 7-8 years.”

“Entisys Public Sector has done a terrific job in partnering with St. Anne School throughout our virtualization deployment,” said Kemp. “Their sales and technical staff have been very responsive, going above and beyond the call of duty to ensure a smooth transition for our teachers and our students. We are looking forward to working with Entisys Public Sector as we continue to expand on virtualization in the future.”

ABOUT ENTISYS PUBLIC SECTOR, A DIVISION OF ENTISYS SOLUTIONS, INC.

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