Case Study – Shakespeare Junior School

By utilising the latest technology such as hosted email, thin clients and server virtualisation, Shakespeare Junior School saved thousands of pounds and replaced their unreliable IT system with the latest in Green ICT technology.

OVERVIEW

As with any new school under support, a full IT systems audit was carried out when Coretek took over Shakespeare. This highlighted a number of immediate improvements that would provide better functionality over the current system and considerable cost savings.

IMPROVEMENTS

1. Replaced outdated email server with the free Office 365 for Education "cloud" email system saving on hardware, licensing and energy costs.
Estimated cost saving: £1350

2. Installed Dell Wyse thin clients in the IT suite to provide a greener, more energy-efficient ICT environment saving even more money on energy bills.
Estimated cost saving: £6550

3. Consolidated all servers into one physical box using server virtualisation. Less servers to buy and run equals considerable savings.
Estimated cost saving: £1350

4. Provided a remote working solution without the need for any additional servers or software.
Estimated cost saving: £1250

Total cost saving: £10,500

TOOLS USED

A number of tools were utilised to improve the IT at Shakespeare Junior School, which included all of the following:

Office 365 for Education

Server Virtualisation (Microsoft Hyper-V)

Dell Wyse Thin Clients

Microsoft Remote Desktop Services

Coretek Secure School Gateway

Coretek
••••• EDUCATION •••••••

EMAIL

The first recommendation was to replace the outdated Exchange 2003 server. Having a single on-site server for the sole purpose of relaying email is an expensive and unnecessary use of resources for a Junior School.

The email was migrated to the Microsoft Office 365 for Education system. Office 365 is a hosted or "cloud" system, so the server is actually held off site and accessed via a web browser. This saved the cost of buying a replacement server and removed all the associated running costs such as energy bills and maintenance. Office 365 for Education is completely free* and includes 24/7 support.

Configuration was a straightforward process that took only a couple of days. The current email providers were contacted to move the domain over to the new system. This was required so the school could keep their current email addresses. Signing up with Microsoft provided same day access to the new system. The school IT Technician can now add or remove email accounts with ease via the provided web portal.

THIN CLIENTS

Thin Clients were installed in the IT Suite to provide one computer per pupil at a much lower price point than a standard desktop PC. The latest Dell Wyse Thin Clients were used to ensure excellent performance with reduced power consumption. As most of the processing power is handled by the server with thin clients, these also offer significant longevity.

"I have now worked with Coretek in three schools and found them to be reliable and adaptable. They have gone out of their way to provide systems that meet our specifications and needs, rather than match us to their package. They provide a personal service with individual members of staff going the extra mile to answer questions and find solutions."

Nick Hutson
IT Manager

Here is Shakespeare Junior School's IT Technician, Roy Houghton with his thoughts on Office 365 and the installation process:

"Office 365 is a fantastic alternative to internal based e-mail systems. It provides a system which not only is user friendly and secure, but it frees up premium network resources in a school environment. It is simple to implement and simple to use. All setting up can be done by Coretek with great ease. The only outside help that is necessary, is with HCC by getting their settings to point to Microsoft settings but this can be achieved within 24 hours."

SERVER VIRTUALISATION

The latest Virtualisation technology allows a number of servers to be installed on only one physical box. Shakespeare had four servers, each fulfilling a different role such as: email, active directory, remote desktop services. These were consolidated down to one server, significantly reducing hardware and energy costs.

REMOTE WORKING

Our remote working solution – **Secure School Gateway**, was implemented on a virtual server to provide safe working from home with no additional hardware costs.

*Additional features including Office 2010 Professional and enterprise voice are an additional cost

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Stay in touch

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