



Barnsley College

Complete IT Systems Ltd provides a consolidated IBM Blade virtual infrastructure.

Challenge

Barnsley College ran 36 separate IBM servers to deliver its IT infrastructure to staff and students. This was costing the college in excess of £30K per year to refresh servers. The network serves over 12,000 students and 350 staff with around 1,500 PC's on the network. There also was a overwhelming need to secure the system by the implementation of a Disaster recovery solution.

Requirements

Barnsley College needed to resolve a number of issues including space, cooling and power consumption for the server estate.

Consolidation of the server estate with a storage solution that would create headroom for data growth in the future was paramount.

A SAN would be the preferred technology for the storage solution, blade servers the hardware platform of choice and VMware ESX server the o/s platform on which to create a virtualised environment.

Solution

Complete IT Systems Ltd proposed and implemented a VMware Virtual Infrastructure which consolidated the existing infrastructure onto an IBM Blade Centre solution using VMware ESX server.

Mr Kendrick, I.T. Manager of Barnsley College says:-

“Over a period of six months we migrated the full staff domain and now we have migrated the student domain which services over 12,000 users. The ease of deployment has been phenomenal. VMware gave us the ability to test and deploy new servers quickly and safely any problems that arise are easily rectified by cloning the server and working on it and then making it live after reconfiguration.”

“VMware has also given us a full DR system by taking snapshots of the servers once a week and copying them to an offsite location this has saved the college thousands of pounds in expensive off site backup costs. This has been done by utilising old servers as file servers all our VMDK backup files are stored ready for redeployment in the event of a Disaster and the use of VMware server to bring up a temporary solution should the need arise.”

Benefits

The solution resolved issues surrounding storage capacity needs for the future and created an instant duplicate backup of the college data by re-using old IBM servers as a backup location in another building. VMware allowed commissioning times for servers to be slashed from weeks to hours.

The practice of internal billing per virtual server continues except rather than create a physical box in the server room a new virtual machine is created with the prospect of this solution paying itself away within 18 months.

Complete IT Systems Ltd

Complete IT Systems Ltd specialises in the design and implementation of virtual infrastructures.

Key technology partners include VMware, IBM, Microsoft, Veeam, Vizioncore, AppSense, Citrix Systems and Ericom.



Case Study

Benefits

Using virtual infrastructure solutions from Complete IT Systems Ltd, Barnsley College has reduced operational expenses and allowed the setup of a separate site for their disaster recovery solution, finally they are no longer locked in to a particular hardware platform due to the portability of ESX Server.

Reduced running costs
System security increased by implementing disaster recovery solution
18:1 server consolidation ratio
Highly available infrastructure
New systems deployed in minutes
Increased motivation and retention of IT staff
Improved customer satisfaction
Improved systems management

Technologies Used

IBM e-server BladeCenter 8677
IBM e-server BladeCenter HS40
quad processor 2.7GHz x2
3.2TB of SAN storage in a DS4000 with extra 14-bay EXP700
Qlogic 6 port Enterprise Fibre switch module x2
Nortel 6 port Gigabit Ethernet Switch modules x2
IBM LTO 2 Autoloader 3623
VMware ESX server v2.5/3

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