

Announcer: What if you were challenged to replace 7000 or so geographically dispersed desktops in a two month period? Listen to Tom Petry from Collier County School district and see how he handled this challenge.

Tom Petry:

Well, the issue that we deal with is the same issue that most organizations deal with in our environment is the high cost of maintaining PC's. So being able to centralize that to, you know, more of a central location to be able to enable remote administration, it will give us a lot of benefits in terms of cost statements of dispatching remote technicians and also saving time for the end user so the end user wasn't down in the event of a failure.

We have 21,000 desktops. We replace about 7,000 of those a year, so about a third of our desktops are replaced every year. So if you imagine the massive cycle, we have to do all that in really a two month window in the summer. So if you can centralize it all to the point where all you're doing is cycling out server hardware in your data center, it'll save a lot of time and a lot of resources in getting that done.

Now, with virtualized desktops you're able to do that centrally. So pretty much if a user requests more RAM or processing power for an application, all we gotta do is a couple of clicks, reboot their virtualized desktop, reconnect them to a new virtualized desktop and they're ready to go with more processing power and more memory to run that application.

So now with the environment that we've set up, you can access you data, your applications by logging into a website from anywhere you are in the world and then establish this connection back into our network and delivers them a desktop remotely.

Currently today, we're using HP's Proliant PL-35 P's

Now, looking forward, we're looking at the C class architecture and for us it provides a lot of benefits in terms of power management and power savings, so we'll definitely be moving to the C class architecture moving forward.

Now, with the C class, they're unstoppable. I mean everything about the architecture has made it set to exceed everyone else and what they're doing for the next – I think for the next foreseeable future, just in terms of power, in terms of cooling, in terms of offering additional expansion options, a virtually limitless backplane.

Everything that they've designed around this product, I think, is just incredible. Their virtual connect architecture is one of the biggest features that we love seeing today. And that, to us, has just convinced us that much more of the technology and the amount of cost savings that we're gonna derive from being able to implement this kind of technology.

So how is this helping the teachers? How is this helping the students in the classroom? And one of the biggest things that you'll see is a reduction in the amount of time that it takes to take care of issues because now you've built this highly resilient infrastructure in the data center on the back end, but now, you know, no matter what your issue is, it virtually can all be solved centrally. And you can – with this robust infrastructure, it's very highly resilient, so it's hardly ever gonna go down.

You know, we use HP Sim Systems and Site Manager for remote management, maintaining, checking for server hardware failures, all that kind of stuff. We've used that for several years now, so it definitely, of course, continued on into a blade infrastructure. We also use i-load tools and the integrated lights out. We stay all the time every day.

We say, you know, how much time and down time this has saved for us and our users and they don't even notice. It's just the i-load features and the capabilities for remote administration, and we haven't seen another company – another server company like HP being able to develop at the same level, that kind of remote administration technology that they've been able to do.

HP does a great job at the high end with storage and, you know, we've used from their low end modular smart array products, the MSA products, all the way up the level to their high end storage products. You know, all of it is really first rate. Their storage works guys all the way up to their XP guys, they do a great job designing storage from that angle. So definitely is great equipment.

HP has been phenomenal too in their support too. HP does get it from the data center perspective. They really understand what it now takes.

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