Case Study - Dell City Independent School District

Background

The Dell City School District is a K-12 school district serving the needs of students in Hudspeth County, Texas. In addition to serving the needs of Dell City, the district also oversees the provision of education to bordering settlements, creating a substantial educational radius with technology needs.

Dell City ISD strives to create an ecosystem that helps learners focus on their individual quest for knowledge, as well as becoming important contributors to societal progress. A key enabler of successfully achieving this goal is having the technology infrastructure in place that ensures the provision of education via modern tools, and also allows the teaching staff to adopt innovative teaching methods.

At the heart of this technology ecosystem lays demand for the latest network and storage infrastructures, as well as powerful desktop computing experiences for students and teachers alike.

Challenge

Modern education is a domain that constitutes multiple technology devices, with desktop computing forming the major chunk of these in the K-12 segment. Additionally, in the case of Dell City ISD, as a rural district with unique challenges, it needed the technology infrastructure that would enable online learning and achieve specialized initiatives such as remedial tutoring for English-language learners.

Having the distance learning ecosystem in place would allow the district to fill learning gaps typically associated with a remote locale. According to District Superintendent Fabian Gomez, "My goal is not for students to be college or real-world eligible, but college or real-world ready."

However, as direly as the district needed the required infrastructure to be in place, a bigger challenge was that of not being able to keep an expensive, full-time resource on-site to manage and support the new infrastructure. Moreover, the traditional option of replacing every single PC with a brand new one was simply not feasible.

The challenge ultimately became finding a solution that enabled the district to improve learning outcomes via technology, while staying within the budgetary bounds in terms of solution deployment and ongoing support and management.

Solution

Synetra, a VDIworks partner, teamed up with the company to offer Dell City ISD a holistic solution that would cost-effectively and strategically help the district achieve critical goals. The solution would not only standardize the overall infrastructure, ensuring availability of resources in every classroom, but also make the transition towards online learning a reality. One that would not warrant the need for a full-time on-site resource for oversight, making support and maintenance costs easily within reach of the district.

Using virtual desktops from VDIworks, Synetra intelligently fulfilled student learning needs while delivering low-cost maintenance and technical-support, along with the latest version of Windows 10 for maximum results.

Dell City ISD

Industry

Education K-12

Business Needs

In order to provide online learning and achieve specialized initiatives, the district needed to upgrade its infrastructure without having to keep a full time onsite resource for management and support.

Solution

Choosing VDIworks for a virtual desktop solution and Synetra as a vendor allowed Dell City to get the latest desktop infrastructure in addition to excellent management and support services. This allowed them to fully facilitate their faculty as well as students by eliminating previously experienced technical problems as well as the need to keep a full time staffer.

"The partnership with VDIworks was critical in enabling us to deploy a state-of-the-art solution cost-effectively and flexible enough to perfectly align with the district's needs."

Ed Pine
Synetra

According to Tara Williams of Synetra, the plan would ensure "constant, reliable and efficient" access to online resources, without the need for a full-time technology staffer to look after the infrastructure. The plan also included overhauling the district's network for voice, video and wireless data.

Ed Pine, Professional Services Manager for Synetra commented, "By opting for a virtual desktop solution, we were strategically able to standardize the school's computers with the latest Windows 10, ensure all resources were available in each classroom and provide better user-experience." He added, "The partnership with VDIworks was critical in enabling us to deploy a state-of-the-art solution cost-effectively and flexible enough to perfectly align with the district's needs."

VDIworks' software solution is ideal for educational institutions, and enables K-12 IT teams to deliver a powerful desktop experience to students and faculty at a fraction of the cost of traditional desktop computers. At the same time, security and manageability are improved through centralization of critical data and infrastructure.

Result

For a rural district with unique educational and administrative challenges, Synetra deploying the VDIworks solution enabled Dell City ISD to repurpose existing PC's as access devices that connect to centralized virtual machines. Not only did this enable remote learning, but it removed the long-standing bottleneck of not being able to hire full-time personnel to oversee maintenance and support for the computer systems. Additionally, the district was able to access the latest Windows 10 PCs at a fraction of what it would have cost to replace all the desktops.

Further, having a virtual desktop infrastructure also allowed Dell City ISD to upgrade the storage infrastructure to improve performance, not only for the desktop experience but for other applications as well.

"Finding a solution that addressed the district's unique needs and did not cost a fortune to deploy initially, seemed like a big challenge. However, the moment the district board came across Synetra's proposition that tied in VDIworks' flexible and award-winning solution, they knew this was just what they needed and could afford easily," commented Jeff Mazar, VP of Business Development for VDIworks. "Our mission is to constantly put client needs first and Dell City ISD was no different", he added.

VDIworks was also the only solution that provided full management capabilities for the endpoint device. This eliminated the need for separate software and/or manual processes, dramatically reducing the total cost of ownership (TCO) compared to other competitive solutions. Additionally, partnering with Synetra, who are approved by the Texas Department of Information Resources, Dell City ISD was able to clear the way for deploying the new system hassle free.

Having the ability to enjoy end-to-end management through a single pane of glass, and the flexibility to work with any hardware infrastructure, is priceless for budget-conscious school districts. VDIworks virtual desktop solutions enable K-12 organizations to take advantage of virtualization technologies not just to lower costs, but also to improve the actual user-experience for students while guaranteeing information security.

About VDIworks

VDIworks makes easy-to-use software that enables IT managers to centrally create, deploy and manage virtual desktop infrastructure. With more than 20 patents and five generations of proven success in enterprise environments, VDIworks offers ultimate simplicity and flexibility, giving customers an infrastructure- and hypervisor-agnostic technology for desktop virtualization.

The VDIworks Virtual Desktop Platform (VDP) offers IT organizations improved management and control, data and asset security, and a superior end-user experience. For more information on VDIworks, visit www.vdiworks.com and follow us on twitter at twitter.com/vdiworks.

About Synetra

Synetra takes a comprehensive approach to solving everyday IT problems. Synetra's expert team and unparalleled service have made them the go-to partner for IT solutions and support throughout Texas for over 30 years. With offices in Dallas/Fort Worth, Midland/Odessa, Lubbock, Amarillo and El Paso, Synetra provides end-to-end IT solutions tailored to each customer - from assessments, to design, to implementation and support. To learn more, visit www.synetra.com.