

Growing School District Lowers Data Center Costs

Andover Public Schools, the second fastest growing unified school district in Kansas, found itself with a looming data center crisis. “Our data center was so packed, we either had to build a whole new data center for over \$1 million or find a more cost-effective solution,” says Rob Dickson, the district’s director of technology.

The district found a more cost-effective solution in the Vblock data center architecture, preconfigured with compute, network, storage, management, and virtualization solutions from Cisco, EMC, and VMware. “The Vblock provided us with the means to expand our existing technology services yet create a smaller footprint so we didn’t have to [find the funds to] build a new data center,” says Mark A. Evans, superintendent of schools for Andover Public Schools.

Lower Data Center Costs Free Funds for Learning

The immediate benefit of the new data center architecture is cost savings, because consolidating standalone servers to the Cisco Unified Computing System™ in the Vblock reduces space, power, and cooling requirements. The district even hosts its Cisco® Unified Communications applications on the Vblock, eliminating the cost of separate servers for the schools’ voice and voicemail services.

The longer-term benefit is lower management burden, freeing up the district’s IT staff to introduce new services. One source of time savings is being able to manage servers, storage, networking, and virtualization from a single interface. Another is using the Vblock to host virtual desktops, reducing help desk costs for supporting PCs. “Everyone can finish their work during normal working hours, and we don’t need to pay staff overtime,” Dickson says.

What’s more, not having to individually provision, manage, and cable new servers means the district can more quickly introduce new services for next-generation learning, administration, and physical security. For example, the district now has the IT resources to implement high-definition video surveillance cameras from Cisco and advanced management and troubleshooting tools for the district’s 300 Cisco wireless access points. The management software for the cameras and wireless access points is also hosted on the Vblock.

To learn more about the Vblock architecture from Cisco, EMC, and VMware, visit: www.vce.com

To read the full case study on Andover Public Schools, visit:
www.cisco.com/web/strategy/education/us_education/data_center_solutions_for_education.html



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