Virtual Desktops Bring Greater Efficiency and User Satisfaction to Machine Manufacturing Company

Mayfran International:
Size: 250 employees
Industry: Machine Manufacturing
Location: Mayfield Village, Ohio
Country: United States

Solutions
• Cisco HyperFlex hyperconverged infrastructure hosts virtual workstations for high-end graphics applications

For More Information
To learn more about the Cisco solutions featured in this case study, visit: http://www.cisco.com/go/hyperflex

Imagine waking up one day and your work life is easier. You’re less stressed, more productive. You have more flexibility with the projects you are working on and when you work on them. Your customers are happy. Life is good.

Sound too good to be true? It’s not. These are just a few of the real-life benefits employees are experiencing at Mayfran with their recent deployment of Cisco HyperFlex.

Enter HyperFlex.

Choosing Cisco HyperFlex

Although Mayfran had deployed Cisco Catalyst and a Wireless Meraki Configuration previously, they were not familiar with the Cisco server portfolio. After casting a wide net and looking at multiple solutions, they selected HyperFlex. Silders explains, "We chose Cisco HyperFlex because it set itself apart from anything else we saw."

While looking at refreshing their infrastructure, Mayfran saw an opportunity to improve engineer productivity by deploying virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI). With VDI, engineers would be able to connect to the back-end systems to work on conveyor designs from anywhere in the world. HyperFlex support for NVIDIA GRID would also be important to provide the graphics acceleration needed to deliver the right performance to the users. With this ability to run high-end
With HyperFlex, Mayfran:

Can open 3D models 80% faster

Has increased worker efficiency through multitasking ability

Responds to customer needs faster

“Before, it would take 15–20 minutes to open each design file. Now it only takes four minutes.”

Clint Nagy
Project Engineer
Mayfran International

graphic applications such as Autodesk Inventor, on a virtual desktop, engineers can engage customers regularly and more resourcefully. Onsite, they can pull up large 3D design files and walk their customers through design plans and drawings.

HyperFlex is a game changer. With it, Mayfran can accommodate their server environment needs, expand their VDI footprint, and tweak their virtual desktop profiles whenever they want or need to.

“This flexibility is nice and we can adjust based on whatever projects are being worked on at the time,” explains Silders.

Day-to-Day Life: Comments from a Design Engineer

All this technology sounds great, but what does it mean for a Mayfran end user?

A design engineer begins a project when a proposal becomes a contract. The early stages of a project involve talking with a customer and understanding their needs. Then, designing the conveyor based on specific requirements. When the design is in draft phase, it’s important to be able to show the customer what they will be buying.

Clint Nagy, a Project Engineer at Mayfran, says the ability to show designs onsite with VDI is a tremendous benefit.

“Customers can see a real life model of the designs with the Autodesk Inventor application. In the past, we would use a 2D AutoCAD drawing package. But when you look at 2D drawings it’s just lines on a computer. When you have a 3D model that you are able to rotate around on every axis imaginable, you get a feel for the real world.” This real world feel is complemented with the ability to open designs much faster. “Before, it would take 15–20 minutes to open each design file. Now it only takes four minutes.”

Nagy continues, “we can show our customers that Mayfran is investing in the technology that helps us deliver products faster.”

Looking Forward

“The hope going forward is to scale back on the physical PC requirement because we have other options to give the engineers. The real benefit is the flexibility...” states Silders. Debbie Peterson, a project design specialist at Mayfran adds “virtual desktops give me the ability to work on multiple projects at once. When I work on the modeling for a project, I have to wait for it to render. On a large project, this sometimes would tie me up for days. Now, I am able to push the rendering into the background and work on other projects. I am more productive and it makes work less stressful.”

Erik concludes, “if we can save an hour a day sitting, waiting for something to render, over the course of a week or a month, it will all add up to a significant time savings by processing things more quickly.”

Products and Services

Unified Computing
• Cisco HyperFlex HX240c M4 nodes
• Cisco UCS S3260
• NVIDIA GRID

Virtualization
• VMware vSphere version 6.0.0
• VMware Horizon version 7.0.2