



SUSSEX COAST COLLEGE REDUCE POWER COSTS BY 75% AND ENHANCE DISASTER RECOVERY CAPABILITY WITH HP SAN AND VMWARE SERVER VIRTUALISATION

Sussex Coast College Hastings (SCCH), formerly Hastings College of Arts and Technology, is a medium sized further educational establishment.

It offers a wide range of vocational and general courses to school leavers and adults living in and around Hastings, a picturesque seaside town in East Sussex, UK.

Over 2,300 full-time and part-time students study across the two main Station Plaza and Ore Valley campus locations.

Project Summary

Industry:
Further Education

- Challenges:**
- Escalating IT maintenance and support costs
 - Lack of resilience for core IT systems
 - Hardware sprawl and low server utilisation
 - Increasing heat, power and cooling expenditure
 - New campus building works scheduled

Solution:

- 6 x HP ProLiant DL380 G6 servers
- 2 x HP StorageWorks P4500 G2 10.8TB SAS Virtualisation SANs
- 2 x HP StorageWorks P4500 G2 12TB SATA Storage Systems
- VMware vSphere 4 Server Virtualisation

Benefits:

- Highly available storage infrastructure
- Excellent disaster recovery capability
- Reduced power, cooling and IT operational costs
- Safeguarding of critical data
- Energy efficient hardware

System Professional working as an HP 2011 Preferred Partner

2011
Preferred Partner



System Professional working as a VMware Enterprise Partner



For more information please get in touch:

www.sys-pro.co.uk
info@sys-pro.co.uk
Telephone: +44 (0) 1825 830000
Fax: +44 (0) 1825 830001

Project Overview

For many years, SCCH operated from a campus in the heart of the town and, like all educational establishments, IT played a crucial role enhancing the students' learning experience. Nonetheless, an ageing ad hoc server, storage and networking infrastructure comprising 30 Windows® servers, several storage devices including an HP StorageWorks Modular Smart Array (MSA) and numerous networking switches had developed across the campus.

"Opting for System Professional, a local HP partner, was a wise move because service support is excellent."

Chris Craven, Network Engineer, Sussex Coast College

SCCH needed a reliable IT infrastructure to reduce costs, satisfy audit disaster recovery requirements and enhance students' learning experience.

The college decided to embark on a virtualisation strategy to reduce hardware maintenance costs via server consolidation, improve server and space utilisation, and lower energy consumption.

SCCH therefore asked System Professional, a VMware Enterprise Partner, to conduct a VMware sizing operation for one month on its server farm to assess the college's performance and storage requirements. Using this information, a formal tender process commenced involving several organisations including System Professional.

Solution

"Opting for System Professional, a local HP partner, was a wise move because service support is excellent. With the virtualised HP server and storage solution in place, we now operate a highly reliable, high-availability infrastructure with full disaster recovery capabilities, to the delight of students, staff and the educational auditors," explained Chris Craven, Network Engineer at SCCH.

Reducing the environmental impact of the new infrastructure was also important to the college because its new 'thermodeck' buildings had to satisfy rigorous energy requirements. Consequently, the hardware's power consumption and cooling needs had to be minimal.

The new HP StorageWorks P4500 SANs offer SCCH both ease-of-management and excellent scalability. They allow the college to scale capacity and performance linearly to match future needs, without affecting downtime and performance.

Moreover, they eliminate single points of failure across the SAN, and thin provisioning boosts storage utilisation, further reducing costs.

In addition, the P4500 SANs are fully scalable and, unlike traditional SANs, SCCH can increase its storage capacity without any detrimental effect upon performance and bandwidth availability, satisfying the college's future needs.

From an IT perspective, the college has experienced a dramatic transformation. The IT landscape now has a highly dependable server, storage and networking infrastructure within a heavily virtualised environment. Average server utilisation has increased from 3.6 per cent to 50 per cent.

Chris added how "Through virtualisation we have consolidated the server estate by 80 per cent, which will lower hardware support costs and, according to the sizing operation, will respectively reduce power and cooling costs by 75 and 69 per cent".

System Professional provided the college with consultation, solution planning and design, technical workshops and testing services. As part of the ongoing partnership, System Professional provide a three-year, around-the-clock, on-site support package with a four-hour response time. The new HP and VMware infrastructure was successfully deployed within 10 days.

In summary, SCCH now benefit from a new storage and virtualisation infrastructure that enhances the students' learning experience and protects the college's reputation for educational excellence.



About System Professional

Formed in 2003, System Professional Ltd is a fully accredited VMware Enterprise Partner and HP Preferred Partner with a dedicated focus on advanced virtualisation technologies and support services.

With a Head Office in East Sussex, System Professional supports a customer base across the UK.

For more information go to www.sys-pro.co.uk



About Sussex Coast College

Sussex Coast College Hastings, formerly Hastings College of Arts and Technology (HCAT), is a Further Education centre of learning based in Hastings, East Sussex. The college provides academic and vocational learning for students from Hastings and Rother and the wider South East.

For more information go to www.sussexcoast.ac.uk



About VMware

VMware (NYSE: VMW) is the global leader in virtualisation solutions from the desktop to the datacenter—bringing cloud computing to businesses of all sizes.

Headquartered in Palo Alto, California, VMware is majority-owned by EMC Corporation (NYSE: EMC).

For more information go to www.vmware.com