



**The School of Pharmacy was founded in 1842 by the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain to "elevate the profession of pharmacy by furnishing the means of proper instruction" and was housed at No 17, Bloomsbury Square, London.**

The School of Pharmacy, University of London is the only free-standing specialist school in the UK dedicated entirely to teaching and research in pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences; with world-class teaching and a top rated research quality profile.

The School of Pharmacy's mission is to lead in education, research and policy development that benefits patients and healthcare practice, medicines discovery and development, and society.

### Project Summary

**Industry:**  
Education

### Challenges:

- Ageing desktop PCs
- Out of warranty Dell servers
- Server room not fit for purpose
- Constant desktop and server hardware failures
- Planned building refurbishment over summer period

### Solution:

- VMware View 4.0 Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI)
- VMware vSphere Server Virtualisation
- HP MSA 2324i SAN
- HP ProLiant DL380 G7 Servers
- Devon IT TCS Sc Thin Clients

### Benefits:

- Rapid speed of deployment for new desktop images
- Centralised management of user desktop
- Reduction in ongoing desktop management, maintenance and support costs
- Decreased power consumption
- Ability to quickly test new applications

System Professional working as a VMware Enterprise Partner



System Professional working as an HP Preferred Partner



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## Project Overview

System Professional originally met Nick Clark (Interim IT Director) shortly after he joined The School of Pharmacy (SOP). Nick had inherited a number of facilities and technology challenges that he needed to address regarding the existing IT systems and infrastructure at the School.

**“System Professional's new VMware View solution has given us the flexibility and centralised management we were looking for.”**

**Nick Clark, Interim IT Director**

SOP employs approximately 250 staff, with the majority based at the principal site in the historic Bloomsbury area of central London. Most of the teaching and research activities take place here, within the one building. Nick explained how he inherited a problematic network infrastructure, with equipment housed in a server room area that was not fit for purpose. The majority of the Dell servers were out of warranty and there was no logical Microsoft Active Directory design in place.

In addition end of life PCs in the student IT suite suffered from regular hardware failures. There was an unmanaged and frequently out of date anti-virus platform, whilst the physical classroom layout and environment was deemed uncomfortable by the students. A building refurbishment was already planned for the summer period to rectify the primary issues.

## Solution

Nick assessed System Professional as a potential new supplier and explained how "I was impressed with their track record in the Education sector. They had an impressive list of testimonials and customer references and were well regarded by other suppliers and industry contacts."

In order to create more space for the planned server room refurbishment, Nick initially engaged System Professional to carry out a VMware vSphere server virtualisation project and consolidate the ageing Dell hardware. 2 x new HP ProLiant DL380 G7 servers were used as the physical vSphere ESX hosts to run over 20 virtual machines and the project was successfully delivered within very strict deadlines.

The second phase of the project addressed the problematic desktop environment. After analysing potential solutions in more detail with System Professional's project team, Nick chose the VMware View Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) solution.

VMware View is a comprehensive desktop virtualisation technology that lets users replace traditional PCs with virtual machines that can be managed from the data centre via a central console.

Nick added that "System Professional successfully delivered the VMware vSphere server virtualisation project and responded well to a challenging working environment. I found their technical team worked quickly and flexibly, and were happy to go the extra mile when required. They engaged very much as a partner rather than a traditional supplier and it was the natural choice to work with them again on the VDI roll-out."

The integration between VMware's vSphere and View desktop virtualisation technology was a significant factor for Nick when evaluating competitive solutions.

The current VDI estate is now fully operational, with 80 XP desktops on Devon IT thin clients. Nick stressed how "System Professional's new VMware View solution has given us the flexibility and centralised management we were looking for. It allows us to quickly and easily redeploy a new desktop image without having to visit the physical machine. This has enabled us to significantly cut IT administration time and reduce support calls. The smaller footprint of the thin clients has also enabled us to reduce power consumption at a desktop level and enhance the School's green credentials. We have made significant savings on our previous energy costs by virtualising both our desktop and server estate."

Due to the success of the initial VMware server and desktop virtualisation projects, Nick plans to expand this even further by adding additional vSphere ESX nodes and extending the VDI roll out to other areas across the School.



### 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 IT 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](http://www.sys-pro.co.uk)



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### 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](http://www.vmware.com)