



“We have three IT staff here supporting 700 machines—I don’t think that would really be possible without tools like VMware Virtual Desktop Infrastructure.”

— David Orridge
IT Manager, Brinsworth
Comprehensive School

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Challenge

Ensure IT infrastructure of educational institution is scalable and able to meet future needs

Solution

VMware provides leading virtualization solutions that increase scalability and manageability of both data centers and desktop environments.

VMware at Work

Virtual Desktop Infrastructure including:

- VMware ESX Enterprise Server
- VMware VirtualCenter Enterprise
- VMware Virtual Desktop Manager

Deployment environment

- Hardware: IBM x3650 servers attached via IBM SAN16B fibre switches, to IBM DS 3400 SAN
- Thin Clients: Wyse V10L
- Guest operating systems: Windows XP, Ubuntu, Suse Linux
- Virtualized Production Applications: MS Office, Star Office and many education specific applications

Brinsworth Comprehensive School

Brinsworth Comprehensive School (Brinsworth) is a mixed secondary school located in the Metropolitan Borough of Rotherham, in South Yorkshire, England. The school serves approximately 1,500 students ranging from ages 11 to 18.

Brinsworth initially explored virtualization after the success the local authority, Rotherham Borough Council, had experienced using VMware technology as a platform for its online portal. Brinsworth followed suit by deploying VMware Infrastructure 3, which enabled the school to virtualize and consolidate some 28 servers within its environment. “After that initial success, we decided to expand our use of VMware solutions,” says David Orridge, IT Manager for Brinsworth. “We started looking at VMware Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) and VMware ThinApp for application virtualisation, the idea being that it would be a lot more scalable than physical desktops.”

VDI is a comprehensive desktop virtualization solution that lets users replace traditional PCs with virtual machines that can be managed from the data center. Using VDI and ThinApp, Brinsworth rolled out 100 new virtual desktops on Wyse thin clients. “Fingers were crossed in the first week of September when students came in and started using them,” says Orridge. “From a performance and functionality standpoint, neither students nor staff were able to tell the difference between our regular desktops and our virtual desktops. To implement a fundamentally different technology without being noticed was, in actual fact, a big success.”

Results

- Reduce IT administration time by 20 percent. “If we want to adjust the specification of machines, we can do so without having to actually visit the physical machine,” says Orridge. “VDI lets us manage more machines with fewer people.”
- Decrease support calls by 15 percent. “We noticed the number of support calls for PC’s go down by 10 to 15 percent within a month of deploying VDI,” says Orridge. “That’s not just a timesavings for end users—it’s a timesavings for the IT staff as well, so we can focus on other matters.”
- Increase data security to meet compliance requirements. “One of the big pushes in the UK at the moment is to increase security of student data,” says Orridge. “The VDI solution, in conjunction with VPN, is perfect for that. There’s zero footprint on the machine at home, so if that machine gets stolen, there’s no loss of data.”



CUSTOMER SNAPSHOT