



University of Dammam Delivers Centralized, On-Demand Desktops and Applications with VMware

INDUSTRY

Education

RESULTS

A centralized and efficient virtual desktop infrastructure, managing remote locations from a single interface, with fewer window images to maintain. With VMware Horizon View, the university can provide secure internal and external access for users' desktops through multiple devices. With vSphere, the university can better allocate resources for desktop and server administration.

University of Dammam is a leading research-based university with 21 colleges spread throughout the Eastern Province and a student population of 45,000. The University of Dammam continues to grow and develop, continually assessing and improving its curricula and expanding its academic capabilities in all disciplines, while at the same time engaging the public in addressing environmental and community challenges.

University of Dammam labs contain over 2000 units of physical PC desktops and laptops. A lot of resources were wasted on maintenance and support of these devices as any application installation or hardware issues were needed to be solved individually. Lab arrangements every semester needed to be done physically, through ghost images - a process that normally took over 3 days to complete. Additionally, the PCs were idle most of the day and needed to be replaced every 3 years.

With over 10 remote locations, students and staff were unable to access their data through the physical set up.

virtual storage, virtual compute and virtual networking to simply and cost-effectively manage and deliver desktop services on-demand.

Solution

Desktop Virtualization implementation with VMware Horizon View, resulting in a centralized administration and simple, secure access to data.

Founded in 1975, University of Dammam is a leading research based institution in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. With over 21 colleges, including medicine and architecture, with a student population of over 45,000.

Today, with VMware Horizon View, University of Dammam is able to deliver virtual or remote desktops and applications on-demand through a single platform to streamline management and securely deliver desktops, applications and online services to students and faculty through a unified workspace.

Central image management for physical devices, consolidate control, delivery and protection of user compute resources with cloud analytics and automation, cloud orchestration and self-service, dynamically allocate resources with

Before the implementation of VMware Horizon View, University of Dammam relied on a physical set up of more than 2000 physical PC desktops and laptops. Support and maintenance of this physical set up was very time and cost consuming. The systems were idle for long periods during the day, and needed frequent replacement after three years. Also, lab arrangements were tiresome every semester, and the individual set up needed over 3 days to complete.

As the university was expanding and updating their applications requirements for new courses, they decided to look at desktop virtualization as a cost effective solution.

VMware worked with their partners in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Diyar United Company, to develop a strategic Virtual Desktop Infrastructure solution for University of Dammam. With the University's existing private cloud infrastructure with vCloud Director, integrating VMware Horizon View was the ideal solution.

VMWARE CASE STUDY

“VMware Horizon View was the most cost effective solution to create and deliver desktops to our faculty and students. With VMware, we have significant cost savings on licenses, hardware requirements, and staff resources. Students, faculty and administrators have noted the improvement in desktop performance and the quality of service with faster changes with VMware Horizon View.”

Dr. Saad AlAmri, CIO, Dammam University

VMWARE AT WORK

- VMware Horizon View (version 5.3.3)
- VMware vSphere (version 5.1)

VIRTUALIZED OPERATING SYSTEMS

- Windows 7

VIRTUALIZED APPLICATIONS

- Adobe Photoshop
- Autocad
- 3D Max
- ICDL Labs

Dr. Alamri said, “VMware Horizon View enabled us to achieve the vision of having our own cloud environment and empower the university’s IT department as a service provider in very efficiently, freeing up time and resources. It was costly to have a separate high end workstations to provide the latest technology such as 3D capabilities, so considering VMware Horizon View was a perfect and cost effective solution.”

Results

- Significant cost and time saving in system maintenance
- Increased lifespan of the physical desktops
- Savings through centralized application licensing
- Operational savings as personal have free time for other projects
- Increased the staff productivity where work is not attached to office desktop, they can work from anywhere, internally and externally and with better experience with BYOD

