

## **De La Salle College subtracts IT issues by adding HP Thin Clients**

### **Overview**

For the small, independent senior school, De La Salle College in Cronulla, getting control of its desktops and providing a consistent and reliable computing environment was a priority for teaching staff who had become increasingly tied up with IT support, taking them away from their teaching role.

An HP partner in education, IT specialists Accucom knew how to tailor an IT solution specific to the school's needs, where performance and reliability were critical, and the solution needed to be cost effective, secure, and above all, simple to administrate.

With the IT needs of a medium business, the school does not have an independent IT budget or dedicated IT staff. They needed an IT infrastructure that delivered the best value on price and performance and could provide a simple, reliable and secure environment suited to the high demand, media rich and mission critical nature of school computing. Accucom implemented a HP Thin Client solution which achieved a low cost upgrade of their computers, significantly improving performance, reliability and lowering their total cost of ownership. The solution enabled staff greater control of the desktop environment and simplified administration, freeing them up to focus on the important job of teaching the students.

### **Business Challenges**

The schools' three computer labs were filled with old Macs on an insecure wireless network. The performance of the machines was unreliable and the network was proving impossible to manage and support.

For maths teacher Michael Helm, valuable teaching time was consumed with troubleshooting the old computers which were prone to many virus infections, compromising performance and security.

"We had no desktop policies and students were saving things onto the desktop and introducing viruses and rogue applications. Data was getting lost and it was becoming a nightmare to support," said Helm.

"We needed to find a cost effective solution to upgrade all the machines. Our key objectives with the upgrade were to improve performance and security, and to simplify the IT administration," he said.

### **How HP helped**

As De La Salle College's IT partner, Accucom, proposed a solution to replace the old Macs with HP t5000 series thin clients. With the thin client solution, all the applications and administration would be managed from a centralised server.

"The cost of the thin clients was very attractive compared to the prospect of replacing the Macs with new PCs, since we had to buy 30, but it also meant we saved a significant amount of money on software and antivirus licenses as well," said Helm.

The implementation took place over a long weekend with Accucom performing a direct conversion – removing the old machines and installing the 30 new HP t5000 series thin clients. They segmented the wired and wireless parts of the network to improve security and performance, and transferred the data and applications onto the new centralised server. When students returned to school the next school day, they still had the same applications and could access all their previous documents with the same user names and password log-ins, but they were presented with clean, new thin clients and flat screen monitors which performed even better than they looked.

## **Value delivered**

“We were really surprised with the speed and performance of the thin clients,” said Helm. “They are much faster than PCs and the students actually prefer them. They take up less room and look neater and the Windows environment is much more familiar to them.” “Another significant benefit is that the staff’s faith in technology has been restored. The computer rooms are now fully booked again for all subjects in the school curriculum, which is really important and pleasing,” he said.

The most compelling aspect of the solution, however, was the control it gave staff over the desktop environment, dramatically improving administration and security.

“Software upgrades can now be done in one simple upgrade to the server and seamlessly adopted by the thin client machines. The students can’t access the desktop environment and introduce viruses or rogue applications,” said Helm. “I spend very little time now taking care of the system, it takes care of itself and I can get back to my real work, teaching the students.”

## **Summary**

**Industry:** Education.

**Solution:** A low-cost thin client IT infrastructure provides a secure, manageable and high-performing IT environment for secondary school, De La Salle College

**Hardware:** 30 HP t5000 series Thin Clients

**Software:** MS Windows 2003, MS Office, Visual Basic and Macromedia Suite.

**Challenge:** To upgrade the school’s computer labs to improve performance, security and ease of management.

**Benefits:** De La Salle achieved a low cost upgrade of their computer labs with HP Thin Client machines which significantly improved performance and reliability, and lowered their total cost of ownership. The solution enabled staff greater control of the desktop environment and simplified administration, freeing them to focus on the important job of teaching the students.

## **About De La Salle Senior College, Cronulla NSW**

De La Salle Senior College in Cronulla is a Catholic Co-educational College focussing on HSC success. The values of the Gospel are taught alongside a curriculum catering for both academic and vocational students.

## **About Accucom**

Accucom Systems Integration Pty Ltd was established in 1988 to assist Australian businesses with their ever changing IT requirements. Accucom assists organisations in developing their IT strategy, designing, building and integrating the technical infrastructure using best of industry products by Cisco, HP, Microsoft and Novell.

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## **About HP**

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