

Case study

Bonhoeffer College studies and saves costs with Zero Clients

»Collaboration with Fujitsu has been excellent at all times. What has made the most notable difference was Fujitsu’s commitment to true partnership characterized by their outstanding support throughout the project.«

Louis Troussel, ICT Manager at Bonhoeffer College



Tolerance and social accountability

According to the words enhancing an official patch Bonhoeffer College is said to be “de leukste school van Enschede”, the finest school in town. By now word has gotten around not only in Enschede but also countrywide that Bonhoeffer College is a visionary comprehensive school for budding students who are considered to be exceptionally satisfied and well-prepared for (work) life. By taking up the banner of social accountability and with its special aura Bonhoeffer College has made its mark. One of the core principles of its philosophy is distinguished by the care and interest the college devotes to each of its 3,886 students as individuals. Here, the right to individuality as well as tolerance, character building, social awareness and engagement are educational priorities that supersede the concept of ready-made on-syllabus education. The aim is to guide both academically and socially highly skilled students to graduation and maturity.

Fully virtualized

To those who are familiar with the holistic approach of Bonhoeffer College it will not be surprising that when the idea of renewing the Client inventory was explored, not only factors such as TCO reduction played an important role but also “green aspects” like reduced power consumption. So far, the institution had been committed to a “Thin-Client Solution” which was no longer up-to-date. It required richer and more robust applications since their computers are used by a great number of students. Bonhoeffer College wanted to enhance the advantages of Thin Clients (i.e. easy maintenance, data safety) and opted for the Fujitsu Zero Client-based solution, thus creating a fully virtualized desktop landscape. To a certain degree it represents a new device class, for the Zero Client acts as a front-end device designed for a desktop virtualization environment that has no processor or integrated storage in it whatsoever while the users – in this case, the students of Bonhoeffer College – benefit from its high performance.

The customer

Bonhoeffer College in Enschede, Netherlands, is an interconfessional school that regularly holds communal services for several world religions.

www.bc-enschede.nl



The challenge

The renewal of the Client inventory with the target to noticeably reduce maintenance costs and energy consumption.

The solution

By implementing the Fujitsu Zero Client as an endpoint device for desktop virtualization significant savings can be achieved through the reduction of acquisition and operational costs.

The benefit

- Compliance with corporate green standards and significant savings due to radically reduced energy consumption
- Considerable TCO reduction thanks to a longer lifecycle and the minimization of desktop maintenance

Products and services

- 390x Fujitsu Zero Client D602
- Desktop virtualization: VMware View 4.5

Robustness and ultimate security

Essentially the Zero Client is an intelligent front-end device. On the desks of the computer rooms only the integrated 22-inch monitors are visible with a keyboard and an Ethernet cable to connect with the data center, the only location providing applications, data and performance. Consequently the Zero Client does not require any operating system, integrated storage, fan or other moving parts. The students in Enschede do not have to give up the accustomed conveniences of other Clients, such as desktop PCs, since the users benefit from a normal environment on the Zero Client. The desktop management and the VMware-based virtual desktop solution View 4.5 support all applications that the students require. Through the implementation of the Fujitsu Zero Clients it was possible to completely resolve the issue regarding the multimedia application that was limited within the previous Thin Client-based solution. In comparison with a terminal environment a virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) is by far more flexible.

Maintenance costs down to all-time low

The flexibility of a Zero Client is tailor-made to meet the demands of operating a modern school. Each student can log on to any computer and instantly access their desktop environment and resume where they left off. For Louis Troussel, ICT Manager at Bonhoeffer College, every-day business has been noticeably facilitated since the entire range of software updates and maintenance tasks is carried out only on the servers. Since intervention into the Clients is no longer necessary maintenance costs for the terminals are reduced to zero. The same applies to the roll-outs. When a machine has to be replaced or the College wants to extend its inventory, the Zero Client only needs to

be unpacked and plugged in in the right classroom – no further work steps are required. The TCO screw can be tightened even further thanks to the fact that the lifecycle of a Zero Client is significantly longer than that of a traditional “Fat Client”.

Green and cost-efficient

Through the minimized use of standard components, the energy requirements of a Zero Client are tremendously reduced. Louis Troussel, ICT Manager at Bonhoeffer College, states:

“The investments fit perfectly into our budget for desktop deployment now and in the near future. And what is more, our vital concern is fully accounted for: With Fujitsu we are able to comply with our Green IT statement.”

And, indeed, the impact of energy savings is impressive: The Zero Client with its integrated 22-inch LCD monitor consumes only 27 Watts under maximum load, whereas a conventional desktop PC consumes more than 200 Watts under maximum load.

True support

The fact that Fujitsu has been able to outperform their competitors with their Zero Client concept is not only rooted in the hard facts of this solution, but also in their solid consulting services. Satisfied with the outcome of the project Louis Troussel concludes: “Fujitsu’s outstanding support throughout the project and their commitment to true partnership is what makes them stand out against their competitors.”



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