

Case Study

Culloden Primary Academy

»Fujitsu PRIMEFLEX Cluster-in-a-box is a simple, low-cost and reliable solution that works off the shelf, which makes it the ideal solution for educational establishments.«

Ben Carter, Principal, Culloden Primary Academy



The customer

Culloden Primary Academy - A Paradigm Academy School located in Tower Hamlets supporting a growing population of local children, the majority of whom speak English as a second language. The school teaches children aged between the ages of 3-11. The Trust has a simple ethos: that every child is entitled to an outstanding education, with equal access to knowledge, skills, opportunities, aspirations, life chances and dignity.

The challenge

With the move to Academy status, Culloden Primary Academy wanted to create a more scalable IT platform that could effectively support future growth. As Culloden Primary Academy lease agreement on its existing equipment had recently come to an end, it was the perfect time to explore new opportunities.

“We wanted to build more capacity within Culloden Primary Academy to support our growing ICT demands,” explains Ben Carter, Principal, Culloden Primary Academy. “Our initial research suggested that implementing a server and storage cluster system would be the ideal way to progress.”

Culloden Primary turned to its long term IT partner, Levett Consultancy, which specialises in educational technology requirements, for advice. Levett Consultancy recommended its ‘School in a Box’ solution, built on Fujitsu’s Cluster-in-a-box offering.

“We looked at a number of potential vendors but Fujitsu was a clear leader in terms of performance, cost and capacity,” adds Ben Carter. “It would also allow us to seamlessly migrate to a new virtualised environment.”

The solution

PRIMEFLEX Cluster-in-a-box provides a fully pre-configured, high-availability IT environment for large academies within one chassis that keeps expenditure and risk to an absolute minimum. The cluster consists of two PRIMERGY servers, shared storage and appropriate network components in compact housing.

Furthermore, Levett Consultancy takes the original Fujitsu solution and wraps it in further customised class leading software from Microsoft, Impero, Symantec and Redstor already built-in. This means it works straight out of the box, enabling Culloden Primary Academy to simply plug it in and be ready to go for continuous, cost-effective availability.

The customer

Country: United Kingdom
Industry: Education
Founded: 2013
Employees: 100+
Website: www.paradigmtrust.org



The challenge

Following the end of the lease agreement on its existing IT equipment, Culloden Primary Academy - A Paradigm Academy, wanted to establish a new platform that would be scalable and could effectively support future ICT growth within the academy.

The solution

It turned to its long term ICT partner, Levett Consultancy, which recommended installing its customised ‘School in a Box’ solution, based on FUJITSU Integrated System PRIMEFLEX Cluster-in-a-box.

The benefit

- Reduces burden on IT staff with a simple, low-cost and reliable platform
- Supporting over 150 Windows devices, 330 Google Chromebooks and 90 LearnPads, which help bring learning to life
- Minimises disruption by installing the solution and migrating existing data and applications in under a week
- Costs less than the predicted budget saving precious resources for the school
- Supports future growth with ability to scale quickly and easily through the automated provisioning of virtual machines will support the school's future growth

"PRIMEFLEX Cluster-in-a-box is a simple, low-cost and reliable solution that works off the shelf," continues Ben Carter. "We were able to easily migrate to the Cluster-in-a-box over the half term period and even though we were faced with some corrupt files, the system's in-built redundancy ensured we could remain operational."

Culloden Primary Academy now delivers numerous applications from the new platform, including Capita SIMS, FMS, Google Services, Impero Education Pro and Coding applications etc. The system also supports over 100 Windows devices, 330 Google Chromebooks and 90 Android LearnPads, a tablet designed specifically for education.

"We have almost 600 pupils and over 100 staff, all of whom rely on technology to bring learning to life and make the classroom more engaging," says Ben Carter. "Unlike the previous server platform, the Fujitsu solution allows us to run over 100 windows devices and 330 Google Chromebooks simultaneously without any detriment to the user experience, making this enhanced learning experience possible."

The benefit

Besides the simple installation, Ben Carter has noted several key advantages to the Cluster-in-a-box approach. Not only did it come in under budget, reducing the burden on the school's finances, but since its installation it has proven flexible, resilient and high-performing.

"The Fujitsu solution can accommodate all the devices and applications simultaneously with no lag or impact on performance, which means I have less to worry about and teachers can get on with teaching lessons rather than having hardware issues," comments Ben Carter. "And it is remarkably robust, since migrating to the PRIMEFLEX Cluster-in-a-box last year we have had no problems to resolve."

Products and services

- PRIMEFLEX Cluster-in-a-box

It also provides a platform for future growth as new virtual machines can be deployed instantly and easily, allowing Ben Carter and his team to add new services without additional cost. This scalability will prove crucial as the school continues to grow.

"Fujitsu's PRIMEFLEX Cluster-in-a-Box simplicity and stability makes it the ideal solution for educational establishments," says Ben Carter. "It also requires fewer licences and has built in redundancy so, if there are any incidents, they won't affect the performance."

Conclusion

Culloden Primary Academy is looking to the future and underpinning its vision is PRIMEFLEX Cluster-in-a-Box, which allows the Academy to scale its wide range of educational applications and devices for pupils and teachers at low cost and most importantly having a positive effect on learning outcomes.

"Fujitsu's PRIMEFLEX Cluster-in-a-Box has given us a high-performing, cost-effective and ultra-scalable IT platform that will enable our future growth."

Ben Carter, Principal, Culloden Primary Academy

In collaboration with



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