

CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY

WIRRAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL
FOR BOYS



“ *I had built a relationship with Cantarus over the years, but it was their previous experience with VMware and their cost effectiveness that proved to us they were the right people for the job.* ”

Jeremy Woodham, ICT Strategy Leader
Wirral Grammar School for Boys

IN BRIEF

CHALLENGE:

Limited by out-dated virtualisation software and hardware, Wirral Grammar School required a superior performance solution with increased storage, better connectivity, and increased efficiency.

SOLUTION:

VMware vSphere 5 infrastructure implementation. Cantarus migrated the servers through a phased implementation to minimise business disruption.

RESULT:

An efficient, flexible and scalable virtualised solution, facilitating optimal performance: providing increased productivity, reliability and cost savings with less maintenance requirements and excellent uptime.

THE CHALLENGE

Challenged with an out-of-date version of the VMware solution, Wirral Grammar School for Boys were running on a legacy VMware solution. Due to ever-increasing demands on memory and storage requirements, a new solution was required.

Wirral Grammar School required up-to-date virtualisation technology and hardware to increase the capacity of their limited storage, improve the performance of the servers and increase productivity within the school. They struggled with the following key infrastructure issues:

- Non-scalable and expensive to maintain
- Slow servers restricting productivity
- Out-of-date hardware and server software
- Memory limitations
- Regular loss of connectivity

Cantarus was selected for its previous experience with virtualisation and expertise in VMware vSphere. Having previously built a relationship with Cantarus, Wirral Grammar School was comfortable with the technology recommended and the cost-effectiveness of the solution.

“ *Our previous solution was very out-dated, we required more memory and needed to update the hardware.* ”

THE SOLUTION

Cantarus' VMware VCP4 and VCP5 certified engineer provided an infrastructure design to include new hardware and software in line with Wirral Grammar School's requirements to provide a scalable, flexible and reliable infrastructure.

Advising on the procurement of cost-effective hardware, Cantarus aimed to deliver high availability and redundancy by leveraging VMware vSphere's features and infrastructure design to reduce maintenance costs and eliminate the need for more costly hardware resilience.

Recommendations were made by Cantarus' VMware Consultant for new servers, Storage area network (SAN) and Network-attached storage (NAS) to improve reliability and speed.

Cantarus installed and configured VMware vSphere to virtualise the school's mission-critical applications and servers. To provide the required knowledge transfer, Cantarus guided the school's IT strategy leader through the necessary deployment and configuration tasks so that the school could self-manage their new infrastructure going forwards.



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The solution has not only increased productivity in the school but it has resulted in less downtime and no need for maintenance.



Cantarus implemented VMware vSphere 5 for its status as the best-of-breed solution in virtualisation amongst other benefits:

- Reduced maintenance costs and power consumption
- Scalable for additional resources
- Reduced recovery time: if one server fails it will automatically restart another server on the network
- Off-site disaster recovery strategy enabled with Veeam Backup and Recovery
- Roll-back and Snapshot functionality to ensure updates are safe and reversible should a failure occur

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Although we had virtualisation previously, at-least weekly we would lose connectivity, resulting in performance issues across the whole school.

THE RESULT

Wirral Grammar School achieved improved performance and connectivity above and beyond expectations, with productivity throughout the school increasing significantly; network resources, databases and additional storage space can be provisioned quickly and effectively.

IMPROVED RELIABILITY:

Previously Wirral Grammar School lost connectivity at least once a week; the new infrastructure solution guarantees availability of resources with increased uptime and reduced maintenance cost.

FLEXIBILITY:

New servers can easily be deployed, moved around and reconfigured. Wirral Grammar School's IT team can add more memory or disk space easily and for added flexibility, snapshot and roll-back functionality reduces maintenance complexity.

SCALABILITY:

With the new infrastructure solution, scalability is optimised; new resources such as physical servers and disk storage appliances can be easily added into the VMware cluster.



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