



Challenge

The school had a diverse, aging infrastructure that was unable to provide the flexibility or scalability to meet its needs. There was a lack of redundancy with the existing Hyper-V-based solution and the current servers and storage were approaching end-of-life and hence warranty. The challenge was to consolidate, migrating to a single solution to ensure the goals and requirements of the school could be met.

Solution

Fortem IT consulted with the network manager and it became clear that moving away from Hyper-V and Citrix's Xen platform would be necessary along with a shared storage platform for redundancy and load balancing. By deploying VMWare they were able to harness the school's existing three host environment, saving significant replacement costs. Additionally, one host which was unused in the previous infrastructure was able to be used as a staging platform to roll VMWare out on-site. Recommendations were made on the type of network required along with the hardware needed to create it – including the SAN itself (a Nimble CS1000), switching equipment and cards, and the relevant software licensing.

Outcome

The result was a far more efficient solution which simplified the school's network, distilling to a single virtualised estate deployed by Fortem IT over a tight timeframe to minimise disruption. The system is robust with resilience built in should the pair of primary hosts fail. Veeam also performs backups regularly with zero disruption to the school. The SAN installation is fully supported and automatically monitors the entire device for bugs or failures. It is now possible to swap server hosts far easier and add valuable extra processing power to the hardware if deemed necessary. The network manager is now able to migrate its virtual machines to new storage solutions in the unlikely event the SAN fails.

“ I was delighted with how Fortem IT were able to work collaboratively with me to refresh our current environment whilst being mindful to re-utilise some of our existing assets where possible. The new system is scalable and provides a much better service to staff and students.

Justyn Flanders-Brazier, Network Manager - Monks Walk School

We have an excellent track record working in Education. It is vital that our schools are able to use their shrinking budgets in the most cost effective way without compromising on quality. We are grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Monks Walk School and provide them with a solid technical foundation for years to come.

Steve Timothy, CEO - Fortem IT

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