

Indiana School District Uses Key Relationship and Know-How to Keep Pace with Growth

Organization Profile

Located 10 miles southwest of Indianapolis, Indiana, the Mooresville Consolidated School Corporation consists of one traditional and one alternative high school, a middle school, and five elementary schools.

SITUATION

Mooresville Consolidated School Corporation (MCSC) has deep roots in the Hoosier state. One of the very first high schools in Indiana, in 1861 it was a one-room building. Today it comprises seven schools, K-12, for 4,350 students. But growth is never without its challenges.

“To keep up we’re always placing demands on teachers to do more and more with technology, which in turn puts pressure back on us to make it all work,” says John Robertson, Director of IT at MCSC.

Like other districts its size, MCSC strives to get the most from its existing infrastructure. “In some ways our schools were like islands, we were struggling with networking issues,” he says. MCSC needed to:

- Implement the best networking solutions available
- Deliver information to every school

- Ensure reliable operation of servers and backup systems
- Manage it all as efficiently as possible

Technology was crucial, but so were costs. In 2003 MCSC hired a new business manager who called for a three-year, lease-purchase approach for all equipment.

"I knew Matrix Integration to be an outstanding HP provider, so we requested a bid and have used them as our technology partner ever since," says Robertson.

SOLUTION

At the time Matrix came aboard, MCSC had already decided it wanted Voice over Internet Protocol and VAN (Value Added Network) solutions. Matrix planned accordingly.

Switches were out of date so Matrix recommended an upgrade. They also specified new rack-mounted servers.

"Originally, we had individual servers with storage on each," says Robertson. "Matrix put all storage in a repository so we could do backups from a central point and servers were added in outlying buildings," he says. The new solution includes:

- HP ProCurve networking products
- HP ProLiant servers
- HP StorageWorks storage products
- HP desktops, notebooks, and printers

RESULTS

Although MCSC has twice as many users and hundreds more computers than just four years earlier, Robertson is hearing far fewer complaints. "Sure, we have some bandwidth issues, but that's not the fault of this network," he says. And everything is transparent to users.

"In the past we had one computer in every classroom. Today we have at least four per classroom. We have increased our network traffic by 4x, but when users go to a machine, log on, everything works with no complaints."

With the help of Matrix Integration, MCSC can virtualize servers, consolidate storage, and count on dependable failover. What's more, MCSC's IT team can set thresholds for utilization. "If predetermined marks are hit, we have the capability of automatically load balancing across multiple servers to increase performance and reliability," he says.

Today, MCSC is rolling out 500 HP desktop computers and participating in a state-wide, one-to-one computing initiative that puts a notebook computer into the hands of every high school student who is taking English. For MCSC, that means 300 additional notebooks and even greater demands on its network. But now they are ready.

"We're enjoying this relationship," says Robertson. "It's not just about validation, Matrix plays a big part in our decision making because they are helping us reach our goals." This school district is growing in confidence.

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