SNS

CASE STUDY

SNS Enables Server Virtualisation and Automated Disaster Recovery for Havering College

Havering College of Further and Higher Education boasts a national and international reputation with its offer of over 35 high quality Higher Education programmes from Higher National Certificates and Diplomas to Foundation Degrees, Honours Degrees and post-graduate programmes in a range of vocational and academic subjects. Most of the undergraduate programmes are work related and geared to enabling the students to secure employment in a range of professions and careers.

The support services, such as the library, counsellors, financial advice, disability support and many others, aim to help students throughout their studies and in their personal lives, if necessary.

CHALLENGES

- •• High costs and administration overhead associated with aging physical server estate
- •• Complex and inefficient multi-vendor storage infrastructure
- •• Managing and testing an effective business continuity plan within a diverse compute environment
- •• Manual management of workloads is complicated due to performance and capacity requirements
- •• Resources required to provision applications and storage

SOLUTION

EMC VNX5300 Fibre Channel block storage
A VNX5300 was deployed at each site using SAS and NL-SAS drives accelerated with Flash using FAST Cache and FAST VP technologies.

VMware vSphere and vCenter Operations Manager
A vSphere cluster with vCenter was deployed at each site and these were monitored using vCenter Operations Manager, enabling any current or potential future performance problem to be easily identified.

EMC MirrorView Replication and VMware Site Recovery Manager
The VNXs were synchronously replicated and Recovery Plans were configured to enable push-button fail-over, fail-back and non-disruptive testing.

Skills transfer
Following the deployment SNS provided full system documentation and training on all aspects of the solution to key members of staff.

BENEFITS

- •• Significant reduction in physical servers and increase in storage capacity
- •• Local site high availability and downtime avoidance
- •• Increased confidence in the business continuity plan as DR tests can be regularly performed non-disruptively
- •• Better application performance as hot data is automatically accelerated to Flash speeds
- •• Reduced overall administration time for application and storage provisioning

> "After many successful years utilising our existing VMware environment we were still faced with a number of physical servers and islands of storage that were difficult to manage, we needed to increase our pace of virtualisation and consolidate as much as possible.
>
> The continuing success of Havering College relies on effective learning and business systems therefore the college needed a solution that would allow us to avoid downtime and easily test our disaster recovery plans on a regular basis."
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> **Adrian Coe, Network Support, Havering College**

STORAGE • DATA PROTECTION • BUSINESS CONTINUITY • VIRTUALISATION

AT A GLANCE

COMPANY SIZE	501-1,000 employees
	13,000 students
INDUSTRY	Education
APPLICATIONS	Microsoft SQL
	Oracle RDBMS
	Novell GroupWise
	CRM
	Facilities Management
	Video Streaming
	Virtual Learning Environment
PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENT	Physical servers with predominately local storage
	Dot Hill Fibre Channel storage
	Dell PowerVault iSCSI storage
SOLUTION	Virtualisation
	Storage
	Disaster Recovery
	Monitoring
TECHNOLOGY HIGHLIGHTS	EMC VNX5300
	VMware vSphere
	VMware vCenter Operations Manager
	VMware vCenter Site Recovery Manager

ABOUT US

SNS delivers infrastructure solutions to match your needs and budget

We are not just a technology reseller, we are specialists that deliver high quality, well planned IT solutions to maximise your return on investment. Our role is to listen, understand and help you with an on-going strategy that will address the key IT challenges of your organisation.

We have a proven track record of delivering IT solutions across the UK to small, medium and enterprise organisations. Our customer references clearly demonstrate how we have helped many organisations to reduce cost and boost productivity with high quality IT solutions and support.

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