

SNS Enables Virtual Infrastructure Refresh for Leyton Sixth Form College

Leyton Sixth Form College is a lively, diverse, successful institution located in the London Borough of Waltham Forest.

Working within a safe, welcoming and stimulating environment, which embraces diversity and promotes respect, Leyton Sixth Form help students fulfil their academic potential and become thinking, questioning and caring members of society.



CHALLENGES

- Existing backup and archiving solution had reached maximum capacity
- Manual management of workloads complicated further due to performance and capacity issues
- Applications required a large amount of manual monitoring and troubleshooting in order to isolate computer or storage performance issues

SOLUTION

NetApp FAS2220

A single FAS2220 was deployed at each site using a combination of SAS and SATA drives. Flash drives were deployed as a Flash Pool to increase performance levels.

VMware vSphere and vCenter Site Recovery Manager

A vSphere cluster with vCenter was deployed at each site. New ESXi host servers were installed at the primary datacentre and existing primary nodes were upgraded and reused at the disaster recovery site. VMware VCenter Site Recovery Manager was integrated with NetApp replicated storage to provide push-button fail-over, fail-back and non-disruptive testing.

NetApp SnapProtect and OnCommand Balance

NetApp SnapProtect was deployed to handle all aspects of backup and recovery. NetApp SnapProtect takes advantage of the highly efficient NetApp Snapshot processes built into each NetApp array to quickly and easily configure disk-to-disk or disk-to-disk-to-tape backups as required.

NetApp OnCommand Balance assists with the end-to-end performance management of the virtual infrastructure from virtual machine through to host and storage.

Skills transfer

Following a complete replacement of the existing infrastructure SNS provided full handover documentation and training on all aspects of the solution to key members of staff.

BENEFITS

- Business critical applications are accelerated to Flash speeds
- Local site high availability and disaster recovery with non-disruptive testing
- Reduced overall administration time and troubleshooting
- Significant increase in computing and storage resources in order to provide for future growth
- De-duplication enables an increase in storage efficiency for both virtual machines and user data
- Professional services throughout all stages of the project, followed by continued support through the SNS Helpdesk have brought confidence in the solution and ongoing peace of mind

“The IT infrastructure is a key component of any successful modern college and underpins many of the teaching and business functions that enable the success of the learners and staff.

After a number of successful years with the existing virtual infrastructure and backup solution Leyton Sixth Form were looking to simplify management, increase computing and storage efficiencies whilst enhancing the performance of key applications.”

Sal Salih, Leyton Sixth Form College

“SNS seamlessly deployed the solution with the minimum of inconvenience to our users and provided a high quality, professional service throughout the entire process. Any issues that arose were handled efficiently, the engineer was always on hand and committed to resolving the issues quickly and effectively.”

Sal Salih, Leyton Sixth Form College

AT A GLANCE

ORGANISATION SIZE	Under 250 employees, teaching and support staff Approximately 2,200 students
INDUSTRY	Education
APPLICATIONS	Microsoft SQL Microsoft Exchange Virtual Learning Environment Video Streaming
PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENT	EMC Celerra NS-120 storage (File sharing and VM datastores) EMC Avamar Virtual Edition (VM backups) EMC NetWorker EMC Cloud Tiering Appliance LTO-3 tape library
SOLUTION	Unified Storage Virtualisation Backup and Recovery Disaster Recovery Monitoring
TECHNOLOGY HIGHLIGHTS	NetApp FAS2200 Series Storage VMware vSphere and vCenter Site Recovery Manager NetApp SnapProtect, Snapshots, De-duplication and Flash Pool

“SNS provided us with a dedicated team of professional sales and technical personnel who are always on hand to provide honest knowledgeable advice and expertise.

Over the years SNS have provided Leyton Sixth Form College with excellent service, it is always reassuring to talk to a passionate team who understand not only the latest technologies but also the key issues affecting the education sector. I would have no hesitation in recommending SNS to any organisation who are looking to build a relationship with a trusted supplier.”

Sal Salih, Leyton Sixth Form College

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.

