

Parallels® Server for Mac

Customer Success Story

Overview

Greene County Schools, located in Snow Hill, North Carolina, is located in a small, low-wealth, rural county in eastern North Carolina. In 2003, Greene County Schools took a bold step by creating the 1:1 concept of learning by providing each child from K-12, teacher and administrator with an Apple notebook to be used every day.

Greene County Schools recognized the enormity and expense of the program but believed the investment of time and money was necessary to fulfill its mission: to offer students a challenging curriculum that prepares them for the 21st century.

The iTech Laptop Computer Program requires the children to use their notebook every day and carry everything on the notebook. Children purchase insurance to protect against damage/loss or the notebook stays at school during the evenings. A direct result of the ITech program has been a reduction in the number of books purchased down from every child to one set per classroom.

The campus is a wireless environment, in the classroom, parking lot and even the baseball field. With an IT staff of three, monitoring a wireless network with a small staff needs to be accomplished from anywhere. With over 3,000 students every day, all day on the computer, it is very important to have a strong internet filter. Greene County uses WebSense, which was a PC-based only solution.

Configuration

There were several PC-based servers running Windows 2000 Advanced Server that supplied applications for Food Services, Destiny (Library system), CiscoWorks, Active Directory Master, as well as DNS and DHCP server. PC-based client applications included HVAC controller, CiscoWorks, MS Access, security cameras, secure entry and interface to an AS400.

With over 2500 Mac clients in place, district personnel on PC's and PC-only applications, havoc was starting to emerge. Having a dual platform more than doubled the overall cost of purchase, support, maintenance and security.

Many of the PC's were approaching end-of-life. Based on the goals of Greene County's Technology Plan, as PC's were "retired" they would be replaced with iMac's and servers were replaced with Xserve's.

Greene County Schools was faced with three alternatives: maintaining the dual platform system, making Windows and Active Directory work well with the Mac environment, or use Parallels Server for Mac.

Results

Parallels Server for Mac provided Greene County Schools with an installation that took less than half a day to format the drive, install new Windows Server 2003 licenses and WebSense. "Deploying Parallels Server for Mac was a breeze," says Reagan. "Taking it out of the box, setting it up and getting it up - tremendous turnaround. I have never set up a PC server that quickly."



Greene County Schools

Location: Snow Hill, North Carolina

of Employees:

- 500 employees
- 3400 students

Website: <http://www.gcsedu.org>

Key applications:

- WebSense for internet filtering
- Windows 2003 Server
- Mac OS 10
- Parallels Server for Mac

"We are just thrilled with Parallels Server for Mac – it has saved lots of problems"

— Rebecca Reagan,
Technology Director

Just looking at one application, Greene County Schools was able to save \$15,000. Additional savings have come from using Parallels Desktop for Mac. In the past as a PC aged, the school would purchase a new desktop for every individual - now they just purchase Parallels providing an additional \$1,500 savings for every desktop.

"Parallels Server for Mac is simply a necessity when running both Mac and Windows applications," says Reagan. "After a straight forward installation to create a virtual Window server on an existing Xserve, the installation of the application is a breeze.

Parallels Server allows a seamless connection to all of our network resources while providing high levels of performance, efficiency and reliability. Machines can be accessed with remote desktops to address issues on the Windows side of the business eliminating on-site visits. With a small staff, eliminating these visits means that the remaining 2 people do not have to cover the 3,000 Macs. Prevents being short-handed."

Six years later, the iTech system has helped Greene County Schools balance available resources, staff development and continuous processes allowing the students as well as the community to reap the benefits. While the iTech initiative has been challenging, the journey is one that they are proud to share.

Learn more at <http://www.parallels.com/server/mac>

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