

CASE STUDY...

Future Proof...



Lanway build IT infrastructure solutions, more importantly we build trusted partnerships with our clients. By listening and sharing ideas, our team of experts can really make a difference and deliver tangible benefits to the organisations we work with. **One such customer is Kingfisher School...**

KINGFISHER COMMUNITY SPECIAL SCHOOL FILE



Kingfisher Community Specialist School needed to future proof the way in which data was stored on their network. The school also wanted to take advantage of the latest virtualisation technologies to increase efficiencies and reduce costs. With the improved controls and extensive access to school data for all the staff, Lanway introduced a solution that went beyond the schools expectations and gave them scope to expand their IT skills and increase the learning outcomes of the children.

CUSTOMER PROFILE

COMPANY : KINGFISHER COMMUNITY SPECIAL SCHOOL
 INDUSTRY : SPECIALIST PRIMARY SCHOOL
 COUNTRY : UNITED KINGDOM
 FOUNDED : 2001
 EMPLOYEES : 10
 WEBSITE : www.kingfisher.oldham.sch.uk

THE CHALLENGE

KINGFISHER COMMUNITY SPECIAL SCHOOL HAD AN AGING I.T. SYSTEM THAT WAS AMALGAMATED WITH THE MERGER OF 3 INDEPENDENT SPECIAL SCHOOLS. THIS CONSISTED OF 15 COMPUTERS BASED IN ONE ROOM WITH HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE ADDITIONS.

LANWAY SOLUTION

IMPLEMENTING A VMWARE VIRTUALISATION SOLUTION, TOGETHER WITH A STORAGE AREA NETWORK, ENSURED THAT THE IT SERVICES AT KINGFISHER WERE RESILIENT AND ABLE TO BETTER UTILISE THE HARDWARE SUPPLIED. THE INSTALLATION OF THE HP FIBRE CHANNEL SAN ALLOWED FOR VIRTUALLY LIMITLESS GROWTH IN A MODULAR AND COST EFFICIENT WAY. LANWAY ENSURED THAT INTERRUPTIONS ACROSS THE SCHOOL NETWORK WERE KEPT TO A MINIMUM WHILST THE NEW EQUIPMENT WAS BEING DECOMMISSIONED AND THE NEW TECHNOLOGY IMPLEMENTED.

KINGFISHER COMMUNITY SPECIAL SCHOOL FILE

The Background

Kingfisher school originated from the amalgamation of three existing special schools: Ferney Field, Foxdenton and Gorse Bank. These schools provided support services to mainstream primary schools, as part of the Local Authority's inclusion agenda. The school is located in the Chadderton area of Oldham and in addition to educating children from all areas of Oldham, the school also receives children from neighboring Boroughs.

Kingfisher is a vibrant community where the children's achievements are celebrated throughout the school. It is a great place to be as the relationships throughout the school reflect the positive attitudes of all in the Kingfisher community.

The Issues

Kingfisher School needed assistance in designing a new storage area network to provision network storage for all staff and students. They also needed a robust server platform for their software and applications to run on. This would allow the school to better manage and plan for data growth throughout the school for both staff and students.

Kingfisher currently utilise three HP ML350GS servers to provide domain, file and print services to the network. These servers both utilise dual quad core processors and are capable of becoming highly effective VMware ESX hosts.

Kingfisher were looking at the possibilities of a VDi or VMware View infrastructure to replace the current and more traditional model of client computers and physical servers. Through improved infrastructure Kingfisher hoped to make the service more efficient and improve performance significantly.



The Results

Lanway made full use of the existing 3 servers (One which was currently not in use). The first task undertaken was to design a SAN which would provide Kingfisher with a solid storage platform to support the data growth for the future. The SAN provided a high capacity solution for all network data as well as space to store virtual machine files for virtual machines performing network functions.

Lanway also consolidated to a smaller number of physical servers. The three original physical servers were reduced and virtualised onto a single ML350G5 so that the server hardware investment was maximised. The physical servers that were freed up were re-commissioned as the hosts running VMware view (formally VDI)

The new virtualised infrastructure provided by Lanway to Kingfisher is more robust, efficient and cost effective than the old system. In addition, the project has ensured that the new system has been future proofed so that staff and children can take advantage of the benefits long after the migration was completed.



What the client said

Mike Underwood explained the experience of working with Lanway: "Their proposed package was by far the best solution for our requirements. They listened to our issues and didn't provide us with something "out of the box" which we were being offered by other companies.

Lanway are a company that live up to their promises and it is refreshing to see. The trust that has built up between us is proving to be a long and lasting one - so much so that we are already in talks with Lanway regarding our expansion programme with the addition of our new building which will be finished sometime in 2011.