

Who: Milton Abbey School

Where: Blandford, Dorset UK

Why: Provide Business Continuity Solution



MILTON
ABBNEY



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Case Study

Education

Set in the midst of Thomas Hardy's rural Dorset, with buildings pre-dating the Norman Conquest, Milton Abbey School had engaged REACT to upgrade their IT by incorporating a campus wide wireless broadband infrastructure. Milton Abbey School decided to further upgrade their facility by utilising REACT's considerable knowledge and experience to provide a Server & Storage Virtualisation Solution.

School Overview...

Milton Abbey was originally founded in c,933AD by King Athelstan of Wessex and is steeped in history from being run by Benedictine monks from Glastonbury to being destroyed by fire in 1309. It was rebuilt at the turn of the 15th century and was kept until the dissolution of the monasteries in 1539. It was restored in 1852 and sold in 1932 and was used as a healing centre until it was bought by a trust to establish Milton Abbey School.

Milton Abbey School is a coeducational boarding and day school for pupils aged 13 to 18 years. It was founded in the 1950's as a forward looking school that embraced tradition, yet celebrated individuality and innovation. These values still hold strong today. The school, at its very core, promotes excellence, hard work, industry and endeavour, celebrating success in whatever form it may come.

"Whilst considering the educational needs of a historic but forward looking school such as Milton Abbey – We selected REACT to provide an energy efficient, secure, scalable and cost effective Storage Area Network and Server Virtualisation solution to underpin our core operational activities, whilst future proofing the schools investment"

Jackie Elston IT Manager for Milton Abbey School



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The Requirements...

- To provide a best of breed Storage Area Network
- To Virtualise the Physical Server Farm

Thereby...

- Reducing the network running costs
- Decrease physical infrastructure by more than 50%
- Reduce risk to the data from disaster recovery ensuring business continuity
- Provide single point of operational control
- Multiple applications on one system
- Creating a Virtual machine monitor "hypervisor" to allocate resources dynamically and transparently.

The Benefits...

- Data backup and recovery - centralised control and ease of management of entire infrastructure
- Data Storage - Consolidate 12 physical servers within 3 hosts.
- Increase hardware utilisation sharing resources across large number of virtual machines
- Disaster Recovery & Business Continuity, users can move to remote Disaster Recovery site and continue accessing resources in minutes, not hours or days
- Overall reduction in IT costs
- Minimise the environmental impact and energy efficiency requiring less hardware increasing server to admin ratio
- Ensure applications perform with the highest availability and performance
- Improve enterprise desktop management & control with faster deployment of desktops and fewer support calls due to application conflicts
- Run multiple operating systems on a single computer including Windows, Linux and more.
- Let your Mac run Windows creating a virtual PC environment for all your Windows applications.

The Problem...

The underlining issues within the live environment were to ensure that in the event of a disaster Milton Abbey School would be able to continue without interruption and without fear of losing essential data. The management of the entire infrastructure needed to be centralised. Decreasing cost of utilities to keep the servers cool and reduce their carbon footprint on the environment was also high on the agenda.



REACT's Solution...

After careful consideration and extensive and comprehensive discussions, REACT recommended a NexSan Tiered SATA & SAS Storage solution with VMware vSphere Enterprise and vCenter software to fulfil Milton Abbey School's technology requirements.

The NexSan SAN facilitates the exchange of data between operating systems and storage elements. Components of the SAN infrastructure include communication infrastructure, storage drives, computing systems, and a management layer. The connecting elements of their SAN network include gigabit iSCSI HP Switches. This technology removes restrictions on the number of servers that a storage utility can be attached to. The flexible networking ability of their SAN eliminates the need for physical proximity between the server and the storage devices.

With VMware vSphere Enterprise and vCenter software virtualising Milton Abbey's IT infrastructure this enables Milton Abbey to reduce IT costs while increasing the efficiency, utilisation, and flexibility of their existing assets.

Why REACT Technologies?

We understand that in today's ever evolving education world it is imperative that our customers have cutting edge technology that is adaptable and secure. With a wide range of professional products and services we provide scalable, bespoke solutions that suit your requirements and ensure flexibility and ease with continuing maintenance and support.

The Technology...

- NexSan BEAST Tiered Storage Array
- NexSan iSeries SAN Controllers
- VMware vSphere - Enterprise Plus
- VMware vCenter Manager

