



Virtualisation: Supporting Teaching and Learning

Rushcroft Foundation School invest in Server Virtualisation, providing a stable platform for Applications and IT Services

Summary: Rushcroft Foundation School is a medium sized Secondary based in Chingford, part of the recently formed Chingford Academy Trust. The core aim of Rushcroft is to provide a 'high caliber education and equality of opportunity for young people of all backgrounds and abilities'. As a 'Good' School Rushcroft's pupils achieve above national average.

A technologically well-equipped School, Rushcroft aims to develop students' digital literacy as independent, critical developers and users of technology. One of the key considerations in providing a high level of tech is the ability to access the correct resources, in a timely and safe manner. With offsite & cloud technology still developing to a stage where complete off premise educational infrastructure is not feasible, Rushcroft looked to refresh their legacy Server infrastructure to meet the growing demands for their students.



Consultative Approach: Rushcroft's existing servers were over 5 years old and running Windows Server 2008, connected to a SAN to provide shared storage. Following many years' utilisation, the capacity on the current solution was a cause for concern, the Operating systems needed an update and the server specifications were outdated. Following a pre-sales consultation with Rushcroft it was clear that the academic vision would have a massive impact on any new solution.

Cloud services are a fantastic way to move to a revenue cost model for infrastructure, whilst providing some clear technological benefits, for example: anywhere, anytime availability and access, failover and integrated support. However, one of the key drives for the update of server technology at Rushcroft is the growing requirement for data capacity. With the Curriculum utilising more and more high quality

media creation tools the hard drive space required is growing. When creating, and editing media rich content user experience is crucial, something that a Cloud solution would not provide.

Technology Choice: Following detailed dialogue Odyssey advised the School to move forward with an onsite solution that would not only provide the capacity required for the media creation they were expecting, but also provide IOPS to allow the expected increase in user numbers to happen seamlessly.

Proposing 3 HP Gen 9 Servers with dual 8-core processors and 128GB Memory, each host has plenty of processing and memory headroom for the IT vision of Rushcroft. A HP MSA 2040 SAN to allow for shared hard drive space between the hosts allowing failover and redundancy. Alongside the hosts Odyssey provided a Resource Server to handle backup's away from the production environment. This server was supplied as a phased previous work package to help with the schools budget. All equipment has been provided with a 5 year HP onsite warranty to give complete peace of mind for Rushcroft in that, any hardware failure would be resolved immediately. Alongside hardware support, Odyssey provide software support services as the first point of contact in case of any support issues. As a HP partner, Odyssey can provide a higher level of connected support for our customers.

Real Value for Money: As part of the project Odyssey provided Rushcroft School with free Project Management to ensure its success. With a dedicated single point of contact and clear escalation routes throughout the project Rushcroft could clearly communicate to the relevant member of staff quickly and easily.

Alongside the project management all the HP equipment was pre-staged offsite at Odyssey Education HQ, allowing for minimal disruption on site and ensuring all timescales and deadlines were met adequately.

Odyssey do not sell for the sake of selling, as part of our solution we assessed current software technology and made recommendations to maintain Veeam. In addition, we worked with the school to utilise Hyper-V; both of which were available under their existing software licencing – saving Rushcroft budget.

Result Driven: Updating server infrastructure is a refresh that can cause major issues across ICT infrastructure of any school. With Odyssey's partnership with Rushcroft we have delivered a seamless transition to the new infrastructure that have extended the lifetime of the system by 5 – 7 years. Upgrades to storage and specification will enable the media rich Curriculum to grow over the coming years; the warranties and Odyssey support provide peace of mind for the IT staff at Rushcroft Foundation School.



Why Odyssey?

With **over 30 years of combined experience** we will make your IT development a success.

Unbiased advice based on classroom impact to teaching and learning.

Always **striving for value for our customers**, we aim to work with your budget.

Expert and quality service throughout; from consultation to implementation & ongoing support.



Get in touch today to talk about your Technology Vision

TheJourney@OdysseyEducation.co.uk