

HVE-STAGE Server Virtualization for Mansfield ISD.

The Problem

Mansfield Independent School District purchased Business and Student Management and Information System solutions from Skyward, Inc. The solutions provided by Skyward, Inc. are recommended by the Texas Education Agency as a preferred provider for student information systems in Texas. Mansfield was assured that they were not too large of a district and that their needs could be met by Skyward.

However, administrative staff experienced poor performance while performing daily tasks within Skyward. Often times, Skyward programs would hang or crash, and even the smallest tasks took a long time to process. Their current hardware implementation was simply not able to handle the demand of Skyward's systems. The servers' inability to handle the demand of resources from Skyward created frustrations for administrative staff, and district administrators forced to allocate more time to routine tasks.

The Solution

After working with HVE Connexions on deploying a virtual desktop infrastructure to replace aging desktops in computer labs, MISD approached HVE about solutions to their Skyward slow down. HVE setup two HVE-STAGE servers and one HVE-SA10 from their HVE-SOLID product line. The two STAGE servers host the Skyward software and are powerful enough to perform all of the processing going on behind the scenes. All data produced or used by Skyward is stored on the HVE-SOLID device. The combination of HVE product lines provided striking performance gains while running Skyward.

The Outcome

The results were outstanding with Skyward performing better than any of the IT engineers or administration could have guessed. Brian Saunders, Mansfield ISD's Network Technician overseeing virtualization, noted, "[Putting] Skyward on the two HVE stage servers made Skyward work by leaps and bounds! It works great... [Skyward] barely even touches the resources on the STAGE servers." Mansfield ISD administrators and staff who utilize Skyward are very pleased with the increased productivity as a result of this virtualization. With the improved performance of Skyward on HVE servers, the business operations of the district are no longer constrained by IT. Instead administrators are able to use that gained time to focus on the education of the students.



Profile

Location: Mansfield, Texas

Students: 32,831

Staff: 4078

Overview

Software Implementation:
Skyward

Hardware: Two HVE-STAGE servers and one HVE-SOLID device

Length of deployment: 24 hours

Mansfield ISD is a 5A district located south of the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex and has 42 campuses. It is one of the fastest growing school districts in Texas. The district has a total enrollment of over 32,000 students and a staff over 4,000.



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