



The Computerworld Honors Program

Honoring those who use Information Technology to benefit society

Final Copy of Case Study

Year:

2013

Status:

Laureate

Organization Name:

NComputing

Organization URL:

www.ncomputing.com

Project Name:

Education Beyond Borders with NComputing

Category:

Economic Development

Please provide an overview of the nominated project. Describe the problem it was intended to solve, the technology or approach used, how it was innovative and any technical or other challenges that had to be overcome for successful implementation and adoption. (In 300 words or less.)

The initiative works to address challenges faced by educational systems across the globe. Scotland County School District and the government-run schools of Punjab both wanted to revolutionize their education systems by providing 1:1 computer access to teachers and students. Each faced a small budget in an overcrowded system. By adopting NComputing desktop virtualization solutions, both school districts were able to dramatically reduce the cost of implementation and maintenance of classroom workstations, while improving the quality of education for over 3.4 million students combined and saving on energy costs. North Carolina has been ambitiously working to achieve its state mandate of 1:1 computer access for all K-12 students. It's a directive that's tough on any

school's budget, but even more so for Scotland County, as it's the smallest county in the state and among the poorest in the nation. With the affordability of NComputing technology, Covington Street Elementary will soon become the first fully virtualized school. Across the world, in the very poor regions of Punjab, Pakistan, the provincial government similarly aimed to boost computer literacy. It laid the foundation of an ambitious initiative called Punjab IT Labs Projects, bringing computer access to 36 districts to help Punjab's next generation gain the computing skills to compete in a global digital economy. Using NComputing technology, the Punjab government reduced the cost of its computer labs by 50 percent, saving PKR 1.8 billion. NComputing is revolutionizing how educational systems provide computer labs for their students, while also enabling a more environmental-friendly approach to IT. Both Scotland County and Punjab school districts were empowered to find a technological solution to meet similar financial concerns and, in result, furthered their economic and educational development, while creating a sustainable practice for future generations.

When was this project implemented or last updated? (Please specify month and year.) Has it incorporated new technologies and/or other innovations since its initial deployment? (In 300 words or less.)

These projects were both completed in the fall of 2012 (October 2012). Both schools continue to expand on their deployments by adding more schools within their districts.

Is implementation of the project complete? If no, please describe the project's phases and which phase the project is now in. (In 300 words or less.)

Both Scotland County and the Punjab school districts have already deployed their NComputing desktop virtualization solutions to great success. As part of a larger strategy, NComputing continues to implement projects all over the world.

Please provide at least one example of how the technology project has benefited a specific individual or organization. Feel free to include personal quotes from individuals who have directly benefited from the work. (In 300 words or less.)

NComputing's deployments benefitted both educational systems by providing a low-cost, low-maintenance and low-impact solution, enabling all students with access to computers, thereby equipping the next-generation with modern computing skills. NComputing devices are also green, consuming significantly lower power resources than conventional methods. Joudat Ayaz, additional program director of Punjab IT Labs Project, said, "It is a sustainable and environment-friendly project with very low recurring costs. In the overall context



of the project, we saved over PKR 1.8 billion, which is almost 30 percent of the total project cost. As far as the electricity savings is concerned, the government of Punjab would save another PKR 10 million per month, as NComputing devices use only one watt of electricity as compared to 110 watts or more for a typical PC. We have reduced the number of PCs being purchased to only 12,585 from earlier 64,290." Rick DeLaunay, director of technology for Scotland County Schools, stated, "With NComputing, I can make a school one-to-one at very reasonable cost, and when it's time for a tech refresh, the costs are minimal compared to any other solution. This should be the only way it's done. Every kid has a terminal to access the Internet or their applications. Anytime they go to the classroom, there's a Windows terminal waiting for them. It's one-to-one computing for literally pennies on the dollar." Additionally, the principal at Covington Street Elementary School, Sandra Wilcher, said, "Student engagement went straight up. Discipline problems went straight down. Achievement is just awesome. It's unbelievable what the kids have learned just having the exposure to the World Wide Web and software programs that can remediate as well as accelerate."

Would this project be considered an innovation, a best practice or other notable advancement that could be adopted by or tailored for other organizations and uses? If yes, please describe that here. (In 300 words or less.)

The deployment of NComputing desktop virtualization technology at Scotland County and the Province of Punjab is a best practice approach to providing school districts, regardless of location, with state-of-the-art computer lab facilities while forgoing the burden of heavy financial costs or environmental impact. Utilizing modern virtualization technology, NComputing solutions provide the right solution for specific needs quickly, at a low price point compared to laptops and desktop systems and with green computing desires and savings in mind. Spanning the education sector through government and SMBs to the enterprise, NComputing provides proven, reliable and robust solutions for organizations of all sizes worldwide.