

Case Study

Wall Township School District, New Jersey



ClassLink

When the people of Wall Township passed a referendum to double the size of the high school, the middle school, and renovate the four elementary schools, the legislation included network cabling and enhancements to improve technology access throughout every campus. To access the network, Director of Technology Jeff Janover proposed a shift from standalone computers to server-based, thin-client computing with the support of ClassLink Technologies.

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Community Support

Located in New Jersey, Wall Township School District is often described as a progressive community with country charm. Situated near the Jersey shore, the well-established community has become a draw for families with children who value the high quality of the public schools. The district regularly shares their goals, plans, and results with the community.

Seeking Sustainable Growth

The referendum funding enabled the district to address a growing population and incorporate technology use into building plans, moving computers from labs to classrooms. Teachers relied on a wide variety of software applications, more than 100 different titles. The combination of distributed machines and the diversity of applications presented a tremendous maintenance burden for the IT staff.

Janover presented the school board with a technology plan for sustainable, scaleable growth using new thin client technology. One member asked how sure Janover was that it would succeed. Janover recalls: "I looked him in the eye and said, 'if it doesn't work, someone else will be sitting in this chair next year.' I had done a lot of research and was convinced it was the way to go." Janover staked his job on the success and was empowered by the board to roll out his vision.



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ClassLink's Thin Client Solution

With thin clients and application servers, Janover estimated that he could save 50 percent on the initial purchase price of equipment to outfit the schools. Applications loaded on Citrix MetaFrame servers provided access from inexpensive thin clients and older computers anywhere, but only required upgrades and support at the server source. The district could expand access and add applications without increasing support costs.

However, Janover still had a lot of questions about how the technology worked in a school environment. According to Janover: "I was most impressed with ClassLink because they understood Citrix and knew what a K12 district needed. They knew how the network should work, and what teachers, students, and administrators needed." In addition to implementation, ClassLink offered training for all students, teachers, parents, and community members. The ClassLink Portfolio System simplified student access to their work and teacher tasks such as assignment, assessment, and feedback.

Engaged Students

Since the implementation of ClassLink in Wall Township, Janover has realized the savings on technology he expected and achieved the widespread use he envisioned. To his surprise, the amount of work done by students at home has increased dramatically. Every evening students and teachers log in to their portfolio desktops from home with access to all of their applications, their work portfolios, and to Successmaker, a curriculum delivery and assessment system.

In five years, the high school has experienced very little downtime in technology access due to the redundant and secure server farm designed by ClassLink and Janover. The district has over 50 application servers monitored by ClassLink staff to maintain performance levels and ensure up time. To test a new application, update a machine, or perform other maintenance,



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Janover can bring a server down and not effect use.

“ClassLink learns from us about what we need to enhance the environment,” says Janover.

“You don’t know how you might use the system a year or two from now. They are very versatile and help us evolve our network to address changing requirements.”

A New Education Landscape

Janover is still the Director of Technology and the school board continues to support his roll-out of additional services and enhancements. They see the results in rising test scores and general improvement in the level of student work. Community training sessions have engaged Wall Township citizens in the education process.

“You are only limited by your imagination,” says Janover. “ClassLink has changed the landscape for how education is delivered in Wall Township. I enjoy seeing the look on staff members’ faces when they realize what they have done and how it has improved the learning experience for our students.”

Technical Specifications

150+ applications including: Office suite and education titles, AutoCAD, Photoshop

Number of Users: 4500

Number of Stations: 2500

Thin client devices: 500

Number of Servers: 50