

“Kaviza has enabled us to move away from a constant firefighting mode of continually buying, imaging and updating desktops to actually moving the school forward. Kaviza cuts desktop management costs by over 85%”

– James Preston, IT Technician, Fitzharrys School



FITZHARRYS SCHOOL

Kaviza helps schools stretch IT budgets

Fitzharrys School is the technology college in the Abingdon Partnership. The school serves over 900 students and technology is a core part of the curriculum. But, like many other educational institutions, Fitzharrys School is very concerned about the many budget cuts and their long-term impact. “We wanted to lengthen desktop refresh cycles by moving away from conventional PCs,” explains James Preston, IT Technician.

After rejecting traditional desktop virtualization approaches because they were overly complicated, Fitzharrys chose Kaviza. “Throughout the school, we have various makes and models of PCs. We have over 250 PCs and at least twelve different Windows desktop images with various application combinations including Adobe apps, Microsoft apps, flash player and collaboration tools. It was hard to streamline and coordinate patches across these,” says Preston. “With Kaviza, we simply use master images for our desktop pools, and with an automated policy, updates are propagated across all the desktops,” he explains. Centralized, consolidated management also makes infrastructure updates easy while strengthening security. “The ease of administration is key - we no longer have to individually setup each desktop. Adding more desktops is measurably quick, and as we scale, we can simply add more memory or servers centrally. Students accessing the desktops via thin-clients don’t even notice the change - they plug in their memory sticks, headphones, use all the same applications, and everything works great,” concludes Preston.

Results:

- Lengthen PC refresh cycles by over 300%
- Reduce desktop patching and update cycles by over 85%
- Enable students to access school resources via their own laptops, iPads, tablets, and mobile phones
- Upgrades are centralized and dramatically faster
- Reduce capital costs and streamline desktop support costs

Challenge:

Acquire desktop solution to:

- Lengthen PC refresh cycles
- Cut desktop support costs
- Stretch IT budgets
- Enable students access via any device including iPads

Solution:

Kaviza’s VDI-in-a-box™ with Citrix HDX accessed via repurposed PCs, iPads and other devices

Kaviza at work:

Kaviza VDI-in-a-box™ featuring:

- Automated desktop image management and provisioning
- Access via iPads, Android tablets, thin-clients
- Built-in High Availability
- Centralized management

Deployment Environment:

- HP DL385 G7 Servers with 8-core processors, 48GB RAM, 4x15K RPM Internal SAS drives
- Citrix XenServer 5.6
- Kaviza VDI-in-a-box
- Access Windows desktops via **10ziG 5682V** thin-clients, and via student devices such as iPads, laptops and home PCs

