

MECHANICSBURG EXEMPTED VILLAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT



CUSTOMER STORY

Mechanicsburg Exempted Village School District, located in Mechanicsburg, Ohio is a small PK-12 public school district. The facility is home to 80 teachers, 900 students, and is divided into three separate sections, each with its own name and building number, making it essential to find new and innovative ways to share technology and other resources.

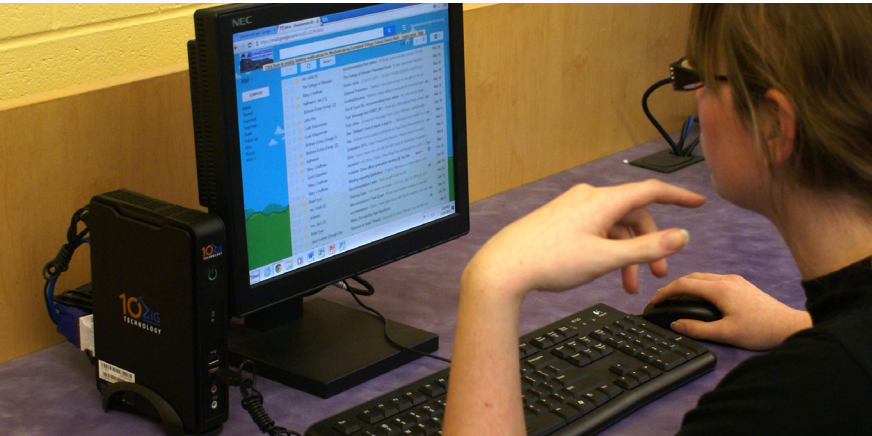


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- Eric Griffith, Director of IT
(Mechanicsburg Exempted
Village School District)

THE CHALLENGE

Mechanicsburg has been progressively implementing a virtual desktop solution while actively replacing over 500 aging Dell Computers. Eric Griffith, Director of IT for Mechanicsburg, said it was a constant struggle to try and keep these Dell PC's up and running. "There was always a hard drive or power supply failure on my 'To-Do' list for that day," Griffith said. "The majority of my time was spent repairing and re-deploying these devices back into classrooms."

Griffith is not only the Director of IT, but he is, in fact, the only IT employee on staff for the school district, making it crucial to find a solution to replacing the aging Dells that not only simplified his workload but also enhanced performance for an optimal user experience.

To achieve this, Mechanicsburg needed a solid back-end infrastructure as well as a high quality and a high performance end point device. "In the beginning, I didn't feel like our infrastructure backbone was fast enough to handle Thin or Zero Clients," Griffith said.

"We waited until a newer version of VMware Horizon View was announced to start our initial proof-of-concept, and from there, we were very pleased with the advancements that had been made."

Mechanicsburg tested 28 10ZiG Zero Clients in their POC lab for three months, which Griffith said worked extremely well. In addition, the school saw vast improvement regarding their energy use. "The amount of money we were spending to power the old Dell computers, was about \$12 a month, per computer and now with our 10ZiG devices, it's less than ten percent of that cost. Not only did we save money moving away from traditional desktop computers, but when we accounted for labor, replacement parts and all of my constant headaches, I knew choosing 10ZiG was the right decision," he said.

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THE SOLUTION

Mechanicsburg Exempted Village School District chose to implement 10ZiG's 5848v Zero Client, and Griffith is pleased with the device. "It boots up automatically into the VMware Horizon View sign on screen, and they are extremely reliable. Our school needed a low cost, user-friendly solution using Windows 7 for our classrooms and labs. Each of our 60 classrooms houses between four and five desktops. We also have three labs, each housing 28 computers, which have now all been converted to 10ZiG Zero Client devices."

According to Griffith, rolling out the units could not have been easier. "I was able to set up a profile exactly the way I wanted, and once I replaced our aging Dell computers with the 10ZiG Zero Clients, all I had to do was push a button, turn them on, shoot out the configuration file, and walk away."

Griffith continued: "The first time I rolled out a classroom, I sat around and watched them image. I wanted to make sure everything worked. The second, third and fourth time I plugged them all in and went home because I knew when I got home, I could put my kids down for bed, remote right in, push out a firmware

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and configuration update and trust that when I returned to school the next day, those devices would be ready to go."

Mechanicsburg tested four or five different devices during their search process including a Dell Wyse and HP unit. When it came to both performance and price Griffith said the 10ZiG device won by a landslide. "They are great little devices and we truly couldn't be happier with our selection. The Zero Client has absolutely given us the results we were looking for."

Currently Mechanicsburg is about 50 percent of the way through converting from physical desktops to virtual desktops and according to Griffith, the goal is to continue replacing old devices over the summer and holiday breaks until every old PC is gone. "The only ones not using Zero Clients are the teachers and that's only because when I first started, I replaced each teacher desktop with a high end computer. However, in five or six years when that computer needs replaced I will absolutely look into putting them on a higher-end Zero Client, probably something similar to the 10ZiG V1200-P with the Teradici Chip Set or whatever version of that is available at the time."



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THE BENEFITS

By choosing 10ZiG Technology, Mechanicsburg Exempted Village School District is continuing to take full advantage of its Zero Client solution. It has provided increased productivity, higher performance levels, and an optimal user experience. These devices will provide the school with continuity and dependability, enabling progressive growth as well as a substantial Return on Investment (ROI).

According to Griffith, the implementation process was seamless. "When I got the 10ZiG unit, I was able to load the management software, reboot and push out firmware all within the first hour of opening the package. It was incredibly easy to use," he said.

Griffith also mentioned the following about the 10ZiG Enterprise Management utility that is included free with all 10ZiG Thin and Zero Client devices: "Using the 10ZiG Management Utility is just like having an assistant," he said. "Being able to push out a brand new piece of software in minutes is an amazing time saver and stress reliever.

In addition to deploying these units throughout the school's classrooms and labs, Griffith said he has also been giving students a Zero Client device to use at

home. "They work great remotely and it is much cheaper than purchasing a laptop, or some other expensive portable device, for them to take home," he said. "I send specific instructions on where to plug in the mouse, keyboard etc. and when they sign in, it's as if they are still at school. It's a very inexpensive solution."

"10ZiG Technical Support was very helpful," Griffith said. "They always took the time to personally email me back if they weren't available and I've really appreciated that. You just don't get that kind of personal experience with a larger company."

Griffith said that Mechanicsburg Exempted Village School District will continue to use 10ZiG for all future needs. "Right now we are working on getting a graphic design lab up and running and we are planning on using the 10ZiG V1200-P Zero Client as well as 10ZiG's PCoIP Remote Workstation Cards," he said. "I have and will continue to recommend 10ZiG to different school districts. Like I've said before, these units are extremely easy to manage, so easy that honestly anyone can do it. It makes having to support 80 teachers and 900 students as a one-man-band possible. This is an ideal solution for Mechanicsburg."

