



A Simple Step to Reduce Your School's Technology Costs

One of the most popular questions we hear from school administrators is:

"How do we reduce the rising costs associated with technology and the never ending required upgrades?"

Prompted by the looming impact of S-1701 and decreased state aid, administrators are seeking ways to reduce technology costs and still remain competitive.

Our answer: *Thin Clients.*

According to the Gartner Group, a popular IT research firm, savings using thin clients can reach 30 to 50 percent depending on the environment. Based on our experience at Crawley & Associates, our education and corporate clients have realized savings of 30 to 40 percent.

What is a thin client?

A thin client is a device that connects to a central computer called a file server allowing a user to run the applications installed on the file server. A thin client can be thought of as a window into your school's applications and data.

At about the size of a paperback book sitting on your desk, a small box called a thin client replaces all of the functionality of your current desktop computer without any moving parts such as hard drives, fans, cdroms, or floppy drives.

A thin client allows you to run all of the applications that you would normally run on your traditional computer including the most popular such as Outlook, Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Internet Explorer as well as your specialized school and business office applications such as SASI, Pentamation, Smarts, and more.

What are the advantages of thin clients?

- **Purchase three to four thin clients for the price of one traditional computer.** A thin client comes prepackaged with a mouse and keyboard. You can utilize your existing desktop monitor.
- **Thin clients require no maintenance or technical support.** If one should fail, simply plug in a replacement. There is no data to transfer and there are no applications to configure. There is no lengthy downtime nor expensive and time-consuming support calls.
- **A thin client lasts (almost) forever.** The life cycle of PCs is typically three to four years. Ten years is the typical life of a thin client.
- **Eliminate theft.** Thin clients must be connected to a file server to be useful. PCs are targets of theft far more than thin clients.
- **Thin clients require no anti-virus software or application updates.** All updates and patches are done at the file server, not at the thin client.
- **Prevent end users from installing or downloading undesired applications.** These unapproved software installations can be very damaging to your schools network
- **Thin clients require no lengthy boot up time.** Imagine connecting to the server in under 15 seconds when booting instead of several minutes required by a PC.
- **Thin clients are easy to manage and simple to deploy.** Whether dispersed in a single building or across several remote locations, your IT staff can access a user's session and provide assistance through the user's monitor, without the technician leaving his/her desk.
- **Recover valuable classroom space that your district currently has allocated for computer labs.** The small footprint of thin clients minimizes the need for a school district to set aside classroom space to act as dedicated computer labs. Classroom space becomes very easy to manage and alter as the day's classes require with the flexibility of thin clients.



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To see thin clients in action... give us a call and visit our Education Solution Center located in Fair Lawn.