

Revera vDaaS powers the future workspace at Unitec

Unitec ushers in era of fluid workspaces;
consigns PC rebuilds to history





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– Gerard Queree, Operations & Infrastructure Manager, Unitec

Tertiary educators must provide truly flexible workspaces to accommodate student numbers. The emerging reality requires a switch to dynamic IT services.

Activating Revera vDaaS at two new campus buildings – Te Puna and Mataaho – Auckland-based Unitec is moving closer to its vision for the right combination of software and services for every student and lecturer, on any device, at any time or place.

The trouble with thick-client computing

When workstations bundle software and hardware (a thick client), the door closes on centrally managed desktops and applications delivered via browsers. That was a problem for Unitec, because workstations spec'd for students learning trades, for example, didn't serve the needs of students in other programmes. To make do, Unitec

administrators performed up to 20 unique PC builds to provide workstations that could accommodate different student courses, software licensing, and requirements for graphics processors (GPUs).

The future is virtual

Looking to relieve the burden of PC builds and introduce flexible desktops to improve the utilisation of its learning spaces, Unitec selected Revera's vDaaS platform – a move that also promised to deliver significant cost savings.

Virtual desktop devices (dumb terminals) are on average 30 per cent cheaper than higher spec'd thick client desktop computers. And with fewer working parts, virtual desktop devices last much longer (6-8 years) than the standard four-year





computer lease renewal. They also consume an average of 8-20 watts compared to a 150-watt PC. What's more, Unitec's forecasts highlighted reduced infrastructure management costs, thanks to vastly reduced desktop management, and centralised administration.

Fast-tracked solution

Revera had just three months to deliver approximately 500 virtual desktops. When students walked in the door at the beginning of the new semester, virtual desktops had to be primed and ready to go. Delivery also required a dedicated environment for GPU processors supporting Unitec's graphics applications, and remote administration access that complied with the infrastructure security model surrounding Revera's All-of-Government vDaaS platform.

So far so good

Unitec delivers standalone virtual desktop images to trade and business students

in two buildings: Te Puna, which offers a mix of essential student services, drop-in learning spaces, and teaching spaces; and Mataaho, a 7,000m² open-plan trades training facility fitted out with virtual reality, augmented reality, and emulation equipment.

Gerard Queree, Unitec's operations and infrastructure manager, said feedback had been fantastic from day one.

"Students love it. Booting up graphics-hungry applications has reduced log-on times significantly," he said.

Unitec's early success with Revera vDaaS put impetus behind a progressive rollout to additional workspaces on campus. Future investment will integrate Revera's platform with Active Directory and the institute's People-Soft student management system. The tie-up will deliver a truly customised desktop experience, providing software and apps – instant clones – defined by an individual student's profile and subject enrolment.

REVERA vDAAS AT UNITEC

Revera vDaaS is powering truly fluid student desktops at Unitec, consigning the majority of individual student PC rebuilds to history. Now Unitec is gearing up for a progressive rollout and integration with student management system PeopleSoft for “just in time” delivery of personalised desktops.



Improved performance

Booting up graphics-hungry applications has reduced log-on times.



Cost savings

Virtual desktop devices are on average 30 per cent cheaper than higher spec'd thick client desktop computers. And with fewer working parts they last much longer (6-8 years) than the standard four-year computer lease renewal.



Easy admin

The beauty of virtual desktops is their one-to-many management model. Administrator tools automate patching, desktop activation and upgrades, and tailor desktop specs to individual users.



Access from anywhere

Eventually, Unitec students will access their desktops from anywhere, on any device.



DIA seal of approval

DIA manages the master virtual desktop services contract, including SLAs and predefined escalation paths, and audits confirm that Revera complies with security and performance standards.



Consistent desktop experience

Documents open in the same place, shortcuts are still there, and Word always works. The desktop experience is consistent.

Revera vDaaS at Unitec
LEARN MORE ABOUT REVERA VDAAS

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