



“The virtual solution CodeBlue implemented for us has delivered as promised. We have a stable, secure environment for our staff and students. We have peace of mind knowing that our servers are monitored 24/7, and the risk of outages and downtime is greatly minimised. We have comprehensive anti-virus protection. Ongoing maintenance has been substantially reduced. The virtual environment makes it easier to deploy, manage and maintain software and programs.”

Chris Punnett, IT Manager – St Thomas of Canterbury College

#### Sleep easy, with CodeBlue

CodeBlue delivers support to St Thomas of Canterbury College via a Bronze ‘Sleep Easy’ Service Level Agreement – a flexible option with the freedom to dial IT support up or down as required. Proactive network monitoring reduces downtime by preventing outages before they occur, and diagnoses any faults immediately. For a fixed price CodeBlue delivers predetermined levels of engineering time and user, remote and on-site support for the College each month.



## CodeBlue constructs secure, flexible virtual onramp for College’s learning highway

A virtual IT environment built around VMware vSphere Enterprise and VMware View is propelling St Thomas of Canterbury College into the future – delivering better manageability and flexibility, along with greater security and reliability. The significant efficiencies and productivity gains triggered by the solution will also translate into longer term cost savings for the College.

In the midst of building a new library and IT wing in 2009, St Thomas of Canterbury College decided to review its existing desktop environment – which included 30 aging, increasingly difficult and time-consuming-to-manage workstations, and two servers struggling to handle ever more sophisticated user demands.

Updating or upgrading PCs was a hassle, as each workstation had to be configured individually. Inadequate PC lockdown meant IT-curious students often tampered with the set up, necessitating frequent rebuilds. The College also wanted to provide remote network and email access for staff and students but VPN connections, which require set up at home and present security risks, were unacceptable.

The College required a secure, easily manageable IT environment providing all the features of a traditional PC network using a familiar desktop environment. It needed to be locked down and tamper proof, factor in redundancy, enable easy upgrades and updates and provide secure remote network access for staff and students.

St Thomas of Canterbury College’s IT Manager Chris Punnett asked CodeBlue for a review and recommendations on upgrading the College to a 50 desktop network.

CodeBlue recommended a virtual environment and presented an analysis comparing the costs of upgrading the existing traditional PC environment with 50 desktop computers versus upgrading to a virtual VMware-based environment.

Customer profile:  
**St Thomas of  
Canterbury College**

St Thomas of Canterbury College in Christchurch is a State Integrated Catholic college for boys from years 7 – 13. The College caters for up to 550 boys and has a staff of 50. It follows the tradition of the Christian Brothers' founder, Edmund Rice, with a focus on social justice. The College staff is dedicated to guiding its young men to reach their full potential through a broad, progressive curriculum encompassing spiritual, academic, cultural and sporting programmes all underpinned by a commitment to service.

**IT environment:**

50x virtual desktops  
30x laptops  
30x standard desktops  
5x servers – 2x VMware,  
2x Windows 2003,  
1x Windows 2000

Operating System:  
Windows XP

**Key IT vendor products:**

VMware – VMware View  
& VMware vSphere Enterprise  
& VirtualCenter  
HP – Servers & SAN  
Microsoft – Operating System  
Wyse – Thin Clients

The analysis clearly showed that although initial implementation costs for the latter were higher; total cost of ownership (TCO) over three years was significantly lower. The initial outlay on VMware vSphere server infrastructure, VMware View and Thin Client technology accounted for a significant portion of the cost, while ongoing operating expenses were markedly lower than those for a traditional environment. Forecasts showed the College could cut over \$70,000 off their IT bill in that time.

Chris Punnett says the TCO projection over three years was attractive. "You don't undertake a project like this to save money in the short term. You have to take a long-term approach with a view to gaining a more efficient and productive environment first, followed by cost savings further down the road," he says.

CodeBlue designed the solution with VMware, incorporating VMware vSphere Enterprise installed on two HP servers, a shared SAN, VMware View with 50 concurrent user licences, and 50 Wyse Thin Client terminals attached to widescreen monitors.

**Enabling greater efficiencies**

CodeBlue collaborated closely throughout the Virtual Desktop Infrastructure installation with VDI specialist VMware and other partners to ensure the project's success and provide the College with a keenly-priced, top-class solution.

The College wanted to retain control of its IT, so CodeBlue involved the in-house IT team in the project, allowing them to learn and understand the new environment. On completion, the College received detailed instructions on managing the environment. Additionally, CodeBlue provides on-site support – coaching the IT team through resolving any issues that arise.

Chris Punnett says: "It was important to us that we kept control of our IT – we didn't want to hand it all over to an external provider. CodeBlue's hands-on education and ongoing support have given our internal IT team the confidence to handle the IT day to day, knowing that we can call on CodeBlue when needed."

**Tangible immediate benefits**

The installation was completed during June 2009, in time for the opening of the new library and IT wing in term 3.

The solution provides secure individual desktop environments, which are easily managed from a centralised virtual network server. The Wyse Thin Client terminals provide the required lockdown and deliver the productivity and application flexibility of a PC – without the downsides. Built-in hardware fault tolerance guards against server failure.

Key benefits include increased manageability and flexibility; easy deployment of new programs, software and desktops; increased security; easier maintenance and greater capacity and capability to trial new software and options – including operating systems – without affecting the production environment. Workstations can be quickly rebuilt.

Secure remote network access, with full functionality, is easily enabled via a webpage with no connectivity between the end user and the internal network. As VPNs are not required, risk of virus contamination from unprotected home PCs is eliminated.

Upgrades and updates that took hundreds of hours in the old environment now take a fraction of the time. None of the upgrades and changes made in the new environment, including installing new anti-virus software, has taken more than two to three hours apiece.

Chris Punnett is pleased with the outcome: "We have a stable, secure environment for our staff and students. We have peace of mind knowing that our servers are monitored 24/7, and the risk of outages and downtime is greatly minimised. We have comprehensive anti-virus protection. Ongoing maintenance has been substantially reduced. The virtual environment makes it easier to deploy, manage and maintain software and programs," he says.

"Ultimately, because of the operational efficiencies and lower ongoing costs associated with the virtual environment, we'll be spending less on infrastructure maintenance and will be able to focus on deploying software and applications to our staff and students that enhance the learning experience,"

says Chris Punnett, IT Manager – St Thomas of Canterbury College.

