KOKOMO SCHOOL CORPORATION
Creating a Better World Through Education

KOKOMO SCHOOL CORPORATION
PROBLEM SOLVED

Kokomo School Corporation implemented FlexPod Datacenter with All Flash FAS (AFF) to increase performance for critical applications and accelerate deployment of IT resources.

Kokomo School Corporation Accelerates Learning Using FlexPod with All Flash FAS

As computers and networks get faster, users expect instantaneous access to information. To meet users' growing demands for data, Kokomo Schools modernized its legacy infrastructure using FlexPod with AFF. Faster performance and increased agility enable Kokomo Schools to better support students, teachers, and administrators with IT resources on demand.

Another NetApp
solution delivered by:

PRESIDIO®

FlexPod®
A Cisco and NetApp Solution

Cut time to deploy IT resources from
4 hours ▶
<10 minutes

83%
reduction in IT footprint

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> "FlexPod's converged infrastructure brings everything together to make it easier to manage. It's a huge time saver."

Jason Gaunt
Director of Technology Systems, Kokomo School Corporation

PUTTING STUDENTS FIRST

Across the US, technology is transforming classrooms and placing new demands on district IT. Like many K-12 districts, Kokomo School Corporation must balance limited resources with an ever-increasing dependence on technology. From the district's headquarters in Kokomo, Indiana, a team of seven IT technicians is on call to meet the needs of Kokomo's 6,300 students, as well as teachers and administrators.

"Our students are our main priority," says Jason Gaunt, Director of Technology Systems for Kokomo School Corporation. "That means making sure students have access to the technologies they need to learn. We also want to make sure our teachers and administrators have access to the information they need to do their jobs when supporting our students."

ENABLING LEARNING THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

Today, Gaunt and his team at Kokomo Schools are busier than ever. More and more, teachers are using online tools and applications to personalize instruction. Administrators are leveraging

data to help students excel. By the start of the 2018-2019 school year, every student will have a computing device through the district's 1:1 initiative. And everyone wants faster access to their data and applications.

As the district's IT environment expanded to support new users and uses, it began running out of its high-speed NetApp FAS storage. Applications running on slower third-party disks lagged or locked up. Users began asking for a faster, more seamless experience.

"We knew we needed the speed of flash," says Gaunt, "but we also were looking for a solution that would help us consolidate storage silos and applications across our SAN environment so we could grow more efficiently."

MAKING EVERY DOLLAR COUNT

Partnering with Presidio, Kokomo School Corporation modernized its data center, replacing its older third-party storage with FlexPod Datacenter with NetApp AFF. FlexPod's prevalidated configuration brings together Cisco UCS servers and Cisco Nexus switches

BUSINESS BENEFITS

- Reduced IT footprint and accelerated responsiveness

- Maximized utilization of existing resources by creating a more efficient use of space

- Eliminated performance concerns, allowing teachers and administrators to spend more time interacting with students

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with NetApp AFF8040 series storage to reduce IT footprint while accelerating responsiveness. FlexPod also made it easy for Kokomo Schools to preserve its existing investments by integrating easily with its existing NetApp FAS array.

"Our older NetApp system is just an amazing product," says Gaunt. "We've had only two drives fail in the four years that the system has been running. I've never had to worry about it. As long as it's still running, we're going to keep using it."

Price limits on future service renewals prevent price inflation and protect Kokomo School's investments. As part of its service renewal, Kokomo Schools will receive new controllers so that it can continue to grow capacity using its existing infrastructure. Such assurances help Gaunt sleep better at night.

"Because students are our top priority, we have to make sure that we are available throughout the day if students need our help. With FlexPod's ease of use, that's not the concern it used to be."

Jason Gaunt
Director of Technology Systems, Kokomo School Corporation

"In K-12, our budgets are being hit harder and harder each year. FlexPod with AFF offered the best value for our budget," says Gaunt.

LOWERING OPERATING COSTS
By consolidating its infrastructure on FlexPod with AFF, Kokomo Schools condensed its storage footprint by 83%, which has reduced power, cooling, and cabling needs. 🐦

"Our FlexPod is just a cleaner, more efficient system," says Gaunt. "We've gone from needing 24 outlets to using only four. With flash, our cooling is more efficient because we no longer need to compensate for the high heat of those older devices."

At the same time, Kokomo Schools has more than doubled usable capacity through deduplication. Thin provisioning

allows for more efficient use of space, which enables Kokomo Schools to maximize utilization of existing resources.

ACCELERATING LEARNING
Performance concerns are now a distant memory. For students, that means no more waiting on technology to access information and assignments. Teachers and administrators have faster access to email and student data, so they can spend less time waiting for technology and more time interacting with students.

"People have already started taking the performance for granted," says Gaunt. "Our critical applications are so responsive that it is hard to imagine them not being that way."

INCREASING AGILITY TO SERVE STUDENTS BETTER
With FlexPod's automation and ease of management, time to provision new servers has dropped from four hours to under 10 minutes. 🐦 "FlexPod's converged infrastructure brings everything together to make it easier to manage," says Gaunt. "This is a huge time saver, but it also allows us to be quicker at implementing new applications and programs to help our students."

As a result, Gaunt and his team can be more responsive to the needs of users, quickly provisioning IT resources while keeping

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their schedules free to support students with their day-to-day technology needs.

"Because students are our top priority, we have to make sure that we are available throughout the day if students need our help," says Gaunt. "With FlexPod's ease of use, that's not the concern it used to be."

In the past, Gaunt and his team would have to set aside time to provision resources for new IT projects. For larger projects, they would have had to wait for winter or summer break. Now, they can spin up specialized servers almost on demand. Because they can deploy resources more quickly, they can do it more often.

"In the past, it took so much time that we had to be very selective about what products we were going to test," explains Gaunt. "Now, we can check out everything and do it quickly. This way, we can find those products that are going to help us better serve our students."

SOLUTION COMPONENTS

FLEXPOD DATACENTER COMPONENTS

NetApp FAS3210 storage

NetApp AFF8040 storage

NetApp ONTAP data management software

Cisco Unified Computing System B-Series blade servers

Cisco Nexus Series switches

SAN protocol

PARTNER

Presidio

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