

FIRST CLASS COMPUTING

School improves teaching and learning while cutting ICT costs by approximately 45 per cent



Information communications technology (ICT) plays an increasing role in education today. Students who have access to technology at home want to use it at school and teachers need to access resources outside the classroom. In addition, parents want to see their children's progress and communicate easily with teachers and administrators. Most importantly, ICT creates learning environments that deliver education in new and interesting ways while introducing students to the business tools they will need to use when they enter the workforce.

SOLUTIONS:

- GREEN IT
- MOBILITY



CUSTOMER PROFILE

COMPANY: Xaveriuscollege

INDUSTRY: Education

COUNTRY: Belgium

FOUNDED: 1935

EMPLOYEES: 135 teachers and 1300 students

WEBSITE: www.xaveriuscollege.be

CHALLENGE

Xaveriuscollege wanted to provide all teachers with the tools they needed to incorporate technology into their lessons and to prepare for integration of an Electronic Learning Environment (ELO) extending teaching and learning beyond the classroom.

SOLUTION

Teachers received Dell™ Latitude™ laptops that could be connected to projectors installed in every classroom of the secondary school. IT administrators consulted with Dell and came up with a novel way for teachers to control these projectors from their desks, using a port replicator solution.

BENEFITS

Get IT Faster

- Online ordering simplifies procurement
- Quick delivery provides equipment five days

Run IT Better

- Tools for flexible working empower teachers
- Latest technology engages students
- Simplified management saves IT team three days a month
- Next day support provides peace of mind

Grow IT Smarter

- Scalable ICT allows for growth without building additional classrooms
- Total cost of ownership reduced by approximately 45 per cent



With around 1,300 students, Xaveriuscollege is a school founded by Jesuits with a strong commitment to education and scholarship for all. With a rich history of providing quality education to 6 to 18-year-olds for more than 70 years, the school was an early adopter of ICT in education, including it in the curriculum for 20 years. When a new head teacher joined the school, he wanted to encourage teachers to integrate ICT into more lessons, even for subjects that are not usually associated with technology. To do this, the school needed to make more computers available to students. Administrators had two options:

- Build dedicated computer rooms for students
- Change every classroom into a projection room

Administrators chose the latter. They decided to turn the campus into a hotspot for wireless internet connection and give every teacher a laptop. They wanted to extend this technology to everyday use by equipping each classroom with a projector that teachers could use to bring ICT into their lessons. Issuing laptops to teachers also supported the school's plan to implement an Electronic Learning Environment (ELO) that would extend teaching and learning resources beyond the classroom.

Marc Hoefkens, ICT manager at Xaveriuscollege had a working relationship with Dell. One computer classroom was

already equipped with Dell™ Dimension™ 9100 and 9150 desktops, and the school already had five Dell Inspiron™ laptops. Hoefkens was impressed with the service he had received from Dell so it was one of the first companies he contacted during the procurement process. He also approached four others, but decided that Dell offered the best solution. "Dell's proposal was the most cost-effective solution and more streamlined than the others," says Hoefkens.

Hoefkens was impressed with three key elements offered by Dell:

- Dell account representatives listened carefully to the school's needs to provide the most appropriate solution
- Fast, on-time delivery promised to streamline implementation and ensure that teachers would receive their computers before the school term started.
- Dell Support Services guaranteed next-day onsite repairs

Dell provided 114 OptiPlex™ desktops, 88 Dell Latitude D820 & D830 laptops, 48 Dell 2400MP Multimedia Projectors and 60 D/Port Replicators over two fiscal years. Several OptiPlex desktops were installed in each classroom for student use, while teachers were provided with Latitude laptops. Teachers' computers are linked to projectors with docking stations on their desks.

“TEACHERS ARE USING THEIR DELL LAPTOPS IN ALL TYPES OF LESSONS. THEY’RE USING THE PROJECTORS TO SHOW POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS, WORD DOCUMENTS, MOVIES, ANIMATION AND MANY OTHER MULTIMEDIA TOOLS. NEEDLESS TO SAY, STUDENTS LOVE IT.”

Marc Hoefkens, ICT manager, Xaveriuscollege

HOW IT WORKS

HARDWARE

- Dell™ Latitude™ 820, 830 and 630 laptops
- Dell OptiPlex™ 750 and 755 desktops
- Dell 2400MP Multimedia Projectors
- Dell D/Port Replicators

SOFTWARE

- Microsoft® Vista Enterprise
- Microsoft Office 2007

SERVICES

- Support Services
- Dell Premier Pages™

When using their computers to show videos, teachers needed a way to control the volume. Hoefkens came up with an innovative solution by attaching AS501PA SoundBars for Value Flat Panel Monitors to the docking stations so teachers could control sound levels from their desks.

SIMPLIFIED PROCUREMENT

For a simplified ordering process, Xaveriuscollege uses Dell Premier Pages, a secure customisable procurement and support site. School administrators use Premier Pages to manage all phases of computer ownership: purchasing, management and product support.

"With Dell Premier Pages, we can go online and quickly order whatever we need. Students and parents at Xaverius can also use Premier Pages and receive the pre-negotiated prices," says Hoefkens.

RELIABLE EQUIPMENT AND FAST SUPPORT SERVICES HELP CLASSES RUN SMOOTHLY

In an educational environment, it is important that ICT is working when teachers need it. If anything happened to computers in the classroom, teachers would be unable to access the material they needed for their lessons.

“WITH DELL PRODUCTS IN THE CLASSROOM, STUDENTS ARE WORKING ON PROJECTS THAT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE PREVIOUSLY, SUCH AS VIDEO EDITING AND CREATING DIGITAL IMAGES.”

Marc Hoefkens, ICT manager, Xaveriuscollege



The Dell Latitude D820 and D830 laptops that are now being used by teachers are durable computers that offer the stability and reliability needed for everyday use in the classroom and at home. “It’s important that teachers have access to the tools they need in the classroom so we’ve been very happy with the reliability of the Latitude laptops,” says Hoefkens.

On the rare occasions that anything should go wrong, guaranteed next-day onsite repair services ensure that downtime is kept to a minimum. “We can usually fix any small issue that comes up quickly, without calling Dell. However, it’s nice to know that the service is readily available if we need it,” says Hoefkens.

TECHNOLOGY INSPIRES TEACHERS AND ENGAGES STUDENTS

To be proficient in the ICT skills required in higher education and in today’s workplace,

students need to learn them early. Although installing projectors in each classroom seems like a simple solution, it has had a major impact on teaching and learning at Xaverius. ICT is now integrated into every type of lesson during the school year. Hoefkens says: “When I walk down the hallways, I can see that teachers are using their Dell laptops in all types of lessons. They’re using the projectors to show PowerPoint presentations, Word documents, movies, animation and many other resources. Needless to say, students love it.”

Teachers are also enthusiastic. Hoefkens has seen an increase in requests for additional technical capabilities such as adding memory and new programs to computers. “They are using more and more Web 2.0 applications,” he says.

“With Dell products in the classroom, students are working on projects that wouldn’t have been possible previously, such as video editing and creating digital images,” says Hoefkens.

IT MANAGERS GAIN THREE DAYS A MONTH

With a stable, easy to manage suite of computers, the ICT team at Xaverius spends less time on equipment maintenance and more on critical and strategic tasks. Although the school’s previous system had fewer computers, it included a variety of brands and models that needed to be updated with different images. “I used to work with a number of drivers. Now that they’re all the same, I can refresh all computers quite easily with the same image,” says Hoefkens.

Hoefkens now has extra time for more rewarding work, such as helping to develop an ELO for the school. He says: “I’ve gained three days a month that I can now spend on training colleagues and helping teachers set up their learning platforms instead of doing repairs all the time.”

In addition to raising ICT standards across the school, managing and maintaining a unified suite of Dell equipment is also much simpler. "Dell provides next-day business support, but we rarely need it," says Hoefkens. "Once we solve a problem for one computer, we've solved it for all of them."

TOTAL COST OF OWNERSHIP REDUCED BY APPROXIMATELY 45 PER CENT

Pre-negotiated prices help administrators provide equipment needed for teaching and learning while staying under budget. "With Dell, the total cost of ownership turned out to be approximately 45 per cent lower than we would have spent with a competitor," says Hoefkens.

In addition to stretching the budget further when purchasing equipment, using mobile technology that does not need additional space on campus reduces the strain on school resources even more. Providing laptops with wireless connectivity and flexibility gives teachers and students access to online resources, including the school's ELO, from the classroom. This eliminates the need to build additional computer classrooms.

SOLAR POWER HELPS XAVERIUS IN ITS MISSION OF EDUCATION FOR ALL

As part of the college's mission as a Jesuit school, Xaverius is preparing a social project with the Ntemo School in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Students at Xaverius participate in fund raising events to provide better learning resources to the students at their sister school in the Congo and the administrators are looking for adequate

sponsoring. Ntemo School currently has a few laptops and a wireless connection, but electricity is limited in the area. Administrators at Xaverius want to do more.

To give students at Ntemo more consistent access to ICT and the Internet, Xaverius is working out a strategy with Dell to provide a solar-powered computer lab in the Congo for students and the community surrounding the school. To do this, Dell would supply 25 OptiPlex 330 DT Energy E-Smart enabled PCs while administrators at Xaverius coordinate the delivery and installation of 39 solar panels and three transformers that change sunlight into electricity. "This project is part of a larger plan for the future," says Hoefkens. "First, we would like to import and install solar panels and set up a mobile computer lab. Second, we would create a connection between both schools. Third, we hope to work out a faculty exchange programme, so that teachers from each school can change places. Last, the exchange programme would be extended to students, giving them the opportunity to attend their sister schools."

"This is an important project for our school, and Dell is helping to provide the best solution," says Hoefkens.

For more information on this case study or to read additional case studies, go to www.dell.com/casestudies and www.dell.be

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Reference number: 10006913