Berufliche Schulen Weißenburg

Sektor:
Education

Standort:
Weißenburg, Germany

Workstations:
250

Faronics Partner:
SBS

Frozen In The Classroom

Faronics Deep Freeze protects the classroom PCs at the Weissenburg Vocational Training Centre

Key Benefits:

- Availability is a must
- Centralised security solution
- Significant reduction in administrative costs
- Very simple installation and distribution

"The solution brings us nothing but benefits, chief among these being substantial savings in administration."

> **Deep Freeze is the ideal software to freeze even a large number of computers in order to ensure that they can function for a long time without administration.**
>
> — Ralf Etzl, Systembetreuer der Beruflichen Schulen Weißenburg

"Working with students to improve the future prospects of students ", is the motto of the Weissenburg Vocational Training Centre. The national training institution, comprising the Vocational Training School, the Technical High School and the Vocational Training High School, is a centre of excellence for careers in the food industry and provides instruction for trainees in the metal technology, vehicle technology and retail sectors. Students who successfully complete their courses leave with a higher education entrance qualification (Abitur) or a specialised vocational qualification (Fachabitur).

Since the 2009/2010 academic year, the Weissenburg Vocational Training Centre has been designated a "QmbS" school (Quality Management at Vocational Training Schools) and relies on state-of-the-art IT to improve and develop further the quality of its teaching. Several fully fitted rooms are available for IT instruction and almost every room is equipped with a PC and projector. In free periods or after school, the Internet café invites students to surf and search.

Availability is a must

Because the computers are intensively used by both teachers and students, smooth running of the equipment must be guaranteed. In particular, protection of the operating system configurations is paramount, because even the smallest changes, made inadvertently or out of curiosity, can lead to subsequent users suddenly finding a changed interface, missing icons or simply a workstation that is no longer fully functional. Of course, the images are always available to ensure that recovery is possible at any time, but the time wasted on this during teaching is simply too great - even if only a few computers are affected.

To achieve a rapid return of the PC to its original state, IT administrator and senior instructor Ralf Etzel initially used the Microsoft "Steady State" software. However, Steady State did not offer any control option over the network and the scope of its features was very restricted overall. Owing

to the withdrawal of the software and the lack of support for current operating systems, such as Windows 7, it became essential to find an alternative in the short term, which could ideally also be integrated into the network environment.

Ralf Etzel on this subject: "We have a terminal server system, which feeds the connected computers with data and applications. On the client computers, which in the main are not integrated with the domain, only a small amount of local software is installed and apart from regular updates to the antivirus software, the PCs always need to remain unchanged in their original state."

The solution: Deep Freeze

With Faronics' "Deep Freeze Enterprise" protective software, the Weissenburg Vocational

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Training Centre implemented a centralised security solution, which met all the requirements and significantly reduced administrative overheads.

In all, 250 computers are "deep frozen" with Deep Freeze, without the speed or user-friendliness being impaired. This means that students can work normally during the teaching and a simple restart suffices to reset all changes made. In addition, malicious programs which have perhaps taken up residence unnoticed on the computer are removed with no trace left after rebooting.

Very simple installation and distribution

Installation of Deep Freeze Enterprise on all the centre's computers went smoothly and no problems arose. "I was able to absorb the essentials of the software operation in about ten minutes and then successfully installed it ", Ralf Etzel recounts. "After querying two or three things with our supplier's support service, SBS, I then performed a few optimisations. Since then, the software has run on our PCs completely invisibly in the background, without a single problem."

The operating systems have been distributed to all three sites for all classes, using images via Acronis SnapDeploy. To achieve this, Deep Freeze Enterprise was simply integrated in the image before rollout. After distribution and customising (SSID, computer name), it was possible then to freeze the computers using the Faronics Core Console with substantially reduced overheads. This management interface controls all systems protected with Deep Freeze, as well as allowing scheduled servicing downtime and the installation of updates and patches at freely definable times.

For Ralf Etzel it goes almost without saying that the change to Deep Freeze Enterprise was the right decision: "The solution brings us nothing but benefits, chief among these being substantial savings in administration. In addition, delivery was fast and our contacts at SBS were always available to answer all our questions, offering advice and action when it was needed."

Because computers are not slowed down by the Deep Freeze "Reboot-to-Restore" concept and boot times are not increased, this solution has the edge over those based on image-based recovery technology. Deep Freeze is used worldwide in fifty countries and provides reliable protection against attack to more than six million computers throughout the world.

SBS Ges. für Systemlösungen mbH has been an established distributor of Faronics products in Germany, Austria and Switzerland for many years.

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