Faronics Deep Freeze Cloud Connector and **Howard Community College**

CASE STUDY

Abstract

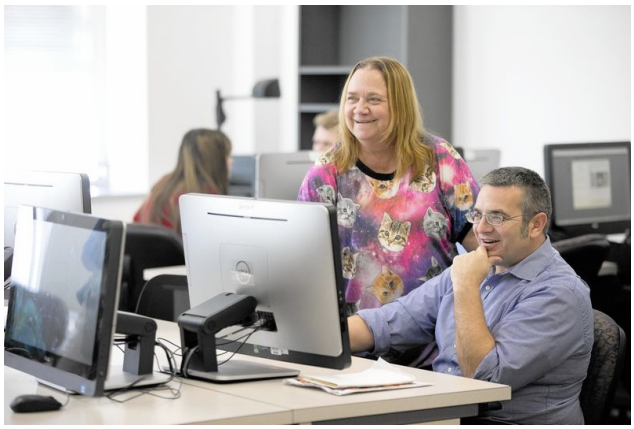
Howard Community College Saves $50,000 Per Year By Reducing Computer Energy Waste

Rising energy costs and the growing desire to be environmentally responsible led Howard Community College on a mission to green their campus. Recognising that there was room for savings in their computing technology, Howard Community College is helping to reduce their carbon footprint and their energy bill by using Faronics Power Save.

Learn how Howard Community College discovered the benefits of Power Save—a software solution that ensures workstations are available when system resources are required, while conserving power during productivity downtimes. Power Save provides organisations with real financial and energy savings on every computer deployed, as well as centralised workstation power status control. Power Save is easy to deploy and manage, non-disruptive to both users and IT, and is able to prove its-return-on-investment through detailed savings reports.

The annual savings generated by HCC running Power Save on their computers are enough to:

- Light 36 homes
- Remove 64,380 lbs of CO2 from the atmosphere
- Take 5.5 cars of the road



About

Howard Community College is an award-winning higher education institution located in Columbia, Maryland. Among its many awards, HCC has been recognised as a Top-Tech Savvy Community College by the Centre for Digital Education and the American Association of Community Colleges. In 2006, Howard Community College celebrated its 35th anniversary with nearly 21,000 students enrolled. In addition to the computers used by the 500+ employees of HCC, the IT department of HCC maintains 2020 student workstations and 27 servers campus-wide.

Problem

Like most IT professionals, Sung Lee knew that there were financial and environmental benefits to reducing computer energy waste. As the Director of Student Computer Support for Howard Community College, Sung recognised that there was no need for HCC's computers to be running during periods where computer labs were not being used. Sung began experimenting with the power saving settings that his Windows computers had just, like most IT administrators who want to deploy computer energy management do.

Initial attempts to reduce computer energy waste were limited to nightly workstation shutdowns. "We used to shutdown our computers every night at midnight," recalls Sung. "While this did provide HCC with some measure of power and cost savings, it came with some problems as well."

One major problem was that the shutting down of computers at midnight was not very reliable. Often, Sung and his team would come in the morning and find computers failed to shutdown overnight. Since HCC was trying to go green, and every computer counted, this simply would not do.

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- Sung Lee
Director of Student Computer Support

Another major problem occurred when trying to implement energy management during daytime hours. The problem was that the power saving settings that come with Windows were too rigid and disruptive for HCC's needs. Since the operating system's power management settings are strictly based on time, they cannot be set to revolve around user activity. Once the operating system's power management is enabled, Windows recognises a computer as in use only if there is keyboard or mouse activity. One can imagine the frustration teachers and student felt when computers would power down in the middle of PowerPoint presentations and lessons that involved watching video clips through Windows Media Player. Clearly the computers were in use, but since Windows did not detect keyboard or mouse activity for a period of time, it blanked the monitors and then powered down the computers.

HCC needed a power management solution that allowed them to maximise energy savings while computers were not in use, while still allowing users to quickly wake computers up when they were needed. It needed to be smart enough to recognise when computers were in use, and it had to allow IT administrators to retain their ability to service enterprise computers and deploy system updates with ease.

Since Faronics was able to provide HCC with bullet proof workstation consistency in the form of Deep Freeze, Sung decided to turn to Faronics once again—this time for an intelligent computer energy management solution. After visiting Faronics' website, Sung Lee had his answer—Power Save

Solution

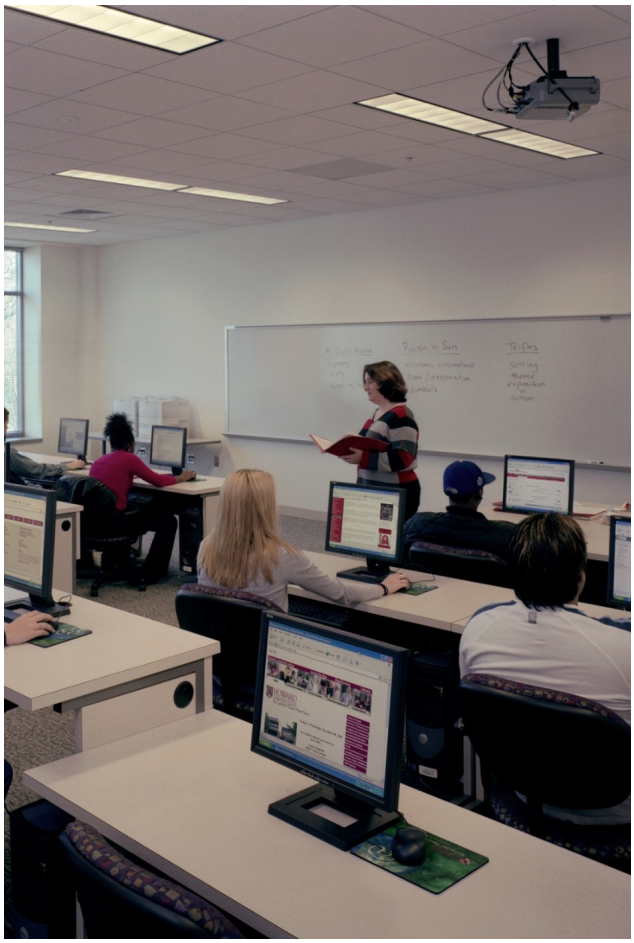
“Initially, we installed Power Save on two computers and then evaluated it for over a month, In September of 2007, we deployed Power Save campus-wide on all student workstations.”

- Sung Lee
Director of Student Computer Support

The intelligent energy management features of Faronics Power Save was exactly what Howard Community College needed. Power Save has a unique feature that no other energy management software has the ability to initiate energy conservation policies based on CPU, disk, and application activity. By basing energy management on activity, rather than fixed time values, Power Save is better able to match energy management with user activity. Power Save also enables IT administrators to prevent any energy management from taking place when certain applications are running. “If Power Save detects that PowerDVD or Windows Media Player is running on our Instructor stations, it prevents the computer from blanking the screen or powering down,” says Sung. These features make Power Save non-disruptive to IT and the end user.

“Initially, we installed Power Save on two computers and then evaluated it for over a month,” says Sung Lee. “In September of 2007, we deployed Power Save campus-wide on all student workstations.” HCC did evaluate alternative energy management solutions, but found Power Save to be the best balance between staff, student, and IT needs. Unlike other server-based technologies, Power Save is workstation-based. Power Save helps organisations gain the benefits of energy management without any investment in expensive server technology.

Howard Community College has currently instructed Power Save to shutdown monitors after 20 minutes of inactivity and computer after 2 hours of inactivity. Based on their current settings, HCC is saving $4200 per month—that works out to over $50,000 in energy savings per year!Tat’s $50,000 that Howard Community College now has to buy new IT equipment and software, hire more personnel, or invest into employee training.



HCC knows exactly how much they are saving every year because Power Save features detailed enterprise reporting. With the ability to track monitor and computer uptime at the workstation level, HCC can measure exactly how much Power Save is helping them. “Reporting really sealed the deal for us,” says Sung. “It makes it easy to associate a dollar value to the energy management methods we have deployed.”

Howard Community College currently has Power Save installed on their Windows-based computers only. Once Power Save is deployed on the Mac computers in September 2008, they expect to see their savings increase.

Real-World Benefits

Energy Savings

Thanks to Power Save, HCC now has an energy management solution that is easy to use, non-disruptive, and is able to prove its financial and environmental savings. Computers using less energy means HCC’s carbon footprint and energy bill are now significantly smaller.

Centralized Control

Power Save provides HCC with enterprise control of their workstation power status. With Power Save, Sung Lee and his colleagues are able to power up, power down, and sleep computer labs with ease.

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Workstation-based Solution

Since Power Save is a workstation-based solution, it does not require any server hardware to operate. This is a significant cost and energy saving for Howard Community College, as the addition of a new server is counterintuitive to reducing financial and energy expenditures.

Enterprise-wide Reporting

Power Save features built-in power consumption reporting that details how long workstations have been powered on, powered off, and how much energy and money is being saved based upon the regional electricity cost.

Key Features

Intelligent Confguration Settings

- Definitions can be based on CPU, disk, keyboard, mouse and application activity
- Shutdown without the loss of user productivity

Flexible Scheduling

- Turn of the monitor, and standby, hibernate, or shut down the computer
- Schedule Wake-on-LAN, shutdown, or restart events
- Promotes user productivity in tandem with energy conservation

Compatibility Options

- Customise, update, and control client workstations
- Localised in five languages: English, French, German, Spanish, & Japanese

Power Save Report

- Power Save features a built-in power consumption reporting tool
- Detailed workstation utilisation reporting allows you to see how much power you are saving based upon your regional electricity cost

Customised Inactivity Definitions

- Employ energy saving actions when Disk activity falls below a defined level
- Activate power saving actions when CPU activity falls below a defined level
- Prevent the workstation from employing power saving actions when a particular application is running

Evaluate Power Save Today

Download a free, fully functional evaluation copy of Power Save from www.faronics.com. Power Save is available for the Microsoft Windows and Mac OS X operating systems.

Faronics

www.faronics.com

Faronics' solutions help organizations increase the productivity of existing IT investments and lower IT operating costs. Incorporated in 1996, Faronics has offices in the USA, Canada, and the UK, as well as a global network of channel partners. Our solutions are deployed in over 150 countries worldwide, and are helping more than 30,000 customers.

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