



Faronics Power Save and Redlands Unified School District

CASE STUDY



Background



Redlands Unified School District (RUSD) is a California-based school district, serving over 21,000 students. There are 23 schools in the district, ranging from elementary to high schools, and over 1,800 employees. RUSD currently has over 7,000 Windows computers across the district, supported by 75 servers. The main district office connects to all of its schools via fiber point-to-point optic connection.

Problem

Like many school districts, RUSD was mandated to cut costs and realize savings wherever possible. The district did not have an existing power management strategy in place, and therefore manually shutdown their computers every night. Not only was this difficult to control, but because there were no specific reporting features, it was impossible to determine how much unnecessary energy was being consumed or saved.

The Technology Services Coordinator, David Massaro, and the Facilities team attended a Southern California Edison presentation on power management. For schools and other organizations facing shrinking budgets, they learned that a dedicated PC power management solution is an immediate and cost effective way to reduce computer energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Southern California Edison is one of the largest power providers in California and provides rebates to school districts and companies who purchase PC power saving software.

Solution

“The installation of Power Save was extremely easy and the software has not created any additional time demands for our busy IT team.”

- David Massaro

Technology Services Coordinator

Recognizing the opportunity to save money with a dedicated PC power management solution, Massaro began researching various solutions. Out of the numerous vendors Massaro examined, Faronics caught his attention. As an already satisfied customer of Faronics Deep Freeze (an instant system restore solution) and Faronics Insight (a classroom management solution), David didn't hesitate to choose Faronics Power Save as their power management solution of choice.

Faronics Power Save keeps computers running when users need them, powers them down when they are inactive, and can prove its rapid return-on-investment through energy savings reports. Power Save is also non-disruptive - it analyzes CPU, disk, network, keyboard, mouse, and application status before taking power management actions.

The PC energy reducing software is now deployed on over 5,500 computers at RUSD. There are two dedicated servers that manage all Power Save PCs in the district's office, and the software has been configured to ensure the most efficient savings without any end-user disruption.

“Like all Faronics products, Power Save has generated some real cost savings for us,” said Massaro. “The installation of Power Save was extremely easy and the software has not created any additional time demands for our busy IT team.”



Massaro and his team also found it extremely easy to customize the Power Policies and create exceptions for certain labs to have power management during specific times only. Power Save's Power Plans allow organizations to customize different levels of energy management for specific days of the week, and at different times of the day. "With elementary schools, the students may not know how to log back into a computer if it went back into power saving mode, so we simply exclude these labs from power saving during specific hours," said Massaro. The Power Policies are uniform across all schools. Within 30 minutes of inactivity, the monitor is put to sleep, while within 60 minutes of CPU inactivity, the computer goes in standby mode. This policy applies 24 hours seven days a week.

RUSD has now managed to save over \$90,000 in energy costs in a year for their 5,500 computers, and the school district couldn't be happier. "Faronics is a great partner for the district. The support we've received from Faronics has been excellent. They've tirelessly worked with us to help us deploy the product to our needs," said Massaro. Thanks to the rebate offered by Southern California Edison, the entire cost of the purchase was covered.

Since deploying Power Save in 2008, the district has focused more concerted efforts to incorporate other green initiatives.

RUSD has hired an energy management consultant to evaluate energy consumed by thermostats, lights, and fridges, plus help the district become more efficient in their use of natural gas and water. “There’s a significant effort across the district to save energy and resources, so these initiatives have really helped,” said Massaro.



Key Benefits

Energy Savings

- Significant reduction in computer energy waste and costs. Implementing Power Save on 5,500 workstations is saving approximately \$90,000 per year.

A Quick and Easy Green Win

- Unlike other energy reducing initiatives like an HVAC system or energy efficient lighting, Power Save provides an achievable and rapid ROI.

Customization of Energy Management

- Through Power Save’s Power Policies, the district was able to customize when their computers powered off.



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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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