Case Study
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Faronics Deep Freeze and Anti-Virus for Widefield School District 3

About

Nestled in the shadow of the Rocky Mountains, Widefield School District 3 services the Widefield, Colorado, area. With eight elementary schools, three high schools and three junior high schools under its purview, Widefield provides education to approximately 9,500 students in the region. Widefield is dedicated to giving students the best chance to succeed academically, and this extends to the underlying technology used to support mandated testing.

The Challenge

The recent implementation of the Common Core State Standards Initiative has placed more pressure on school districts in the United States to enhance their online and digital testing capabilities. In addition, the district's involvement with the Partnership for Assessment for College and Careers as well as the Colorado Measures of Academic Success further drove the need for reliable online testing processes.

One major concern in this regard was the testing software's settings which registered any notification as a potential attempt to cheat by the user. For instance, if a notification to update Java cropped up during a test, the software would kick the student out of his or her current session.

This would in turn necessitate that a proctor restart the software, losing valuable time. Because there are only so many devices available to handle testing for the entire school district, Widefield officials needed to find a way to gain a high level of consistency and performance across their fleet of machines.

Solution

The school district had purchased Chrome books in an attempt to address these issues, as they offered more reliability than the PCs being used. However, acquiring Chrome books for the sole purpose of handling annual testing needs presented a potentially unwise investment. Officials wanted multi-purpose devices to be leveraged in everyday classrooms. They looked to Faronics Deep Freeze to provide the stability and consistency they needed from their Windows machines.

Regardless of what changes students or teachers might make to these machines throughout the school year, IT teams can be rest assured that they will reset to their desired settings upon every restart.

With a 16-member IT team overseeing every device in the entire school district, having the ability too quickly and easily refresh a computer to a specific configuration is a major time saver.

By installing Deep Freeze on approximately 2,000 machines, Widefield can ensure that when it comes time to handle any standardised testing, they can roll out devices that are properly configured to prevent any unnecessary interruptions.

"The stability of the platform is a big deal.If there are a lot of interruptions, then students aren't focused on taking the test and demonstrating knowledge".

- **Keith Mann**
  Director of Technology and Information Services

Results

Since implementing Deep Freeze, Widefield has been able to cultivate a consistent testing environment for its students as well as reduce its reliance on specific devices for carrying out these duties. In fact, according to Mann, their Windows machines have surpassed their Chrome books in regard to reliability. This is all thanks to Deep Freeze's ability to freeze a specific environment.

As a Faronics customer since 2004, Widefield has seen firsthand how beneficial a partnership with this company can be, and has looked for additional opportunities to integrate Faronics products.

Given how critical Deep Freeze is to their testing and overall educational environment, Widefield officials want an antivirus solution that will seamlessly operate alongside it.

That's why the school district recently purchased another 1900 licenses for Faronics Anti-Virus, further enhancing the stability of their testing and learning platforms. In addition to providing multi-layer detection, firewall protection and Web filtering, Faronics' Anti-Virus solution directly integrates with Deep Freeze, making it a breeze for Widefield crews to update threat

breeze for Widefield crews to update threat definitions and alter security configuration and management settings across the entire fleet of frozen Windows machines.

With both Deep Freeze and Anti-Virus in place, the school district is well on its way to maintaining a stable environment for both testing and everyday classroom activities.

"We're really glad we have Deep Freeze. We would be scrambling for something like it if we didn't already have it. It is, and always has been, a great tool."

-**Keith Mann**
 Director of Technology and Information Services

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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