Faronics Power Save and the **School District of the Chathams**

Background

The School District of the Chathams is a regional public school district serving the students of Chatham Borough and Chatham Township in Morris County, New Jersey, United States.

They have approximately 500 employees and 3900 students in their district with a total of 58 active servers on the network (21 are physical servers). Roughly half of the physical servers are VMware hosts that run multiple virtual servers while the other half are physical servers because they are not good candidates for virtualisation.

Problem

Because energy usage by computers is not itemised individually, many school districts, like the School District of the Chathams, do not realise the extensive amount of electricity used by their PCs. John Abdelmalak, Director of Technology knew that reducing PC energy consumption would save the school district a significant amount of money.

Solutions They Tried

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John Abdelmalak
Director of Technology

Abdelmalak originally tried to enforce a policy where computers were powered on only when they were needed, but the results were less than positive. "The reality was that the computers were being left on overnight more often than not," claimed Abdelmalak.

Abdelmalak also tried using Altiris Deployment Server to shutdown machines, since they were already using it as a desktop management solution. They attempted to schedule a 4pm shutdown for all school computers, but this failed to take into account when a user was actively using a computer. "We had to push the time back to 10pm to ensure nobody would be using the computers at that time which meant that if a computer was left on after school it would remain on and using electricity until 10pm when it would be shut off," said Abdelmalak. "The solution also relied on Wake-on-LAN, so if we had any issues with WOL the computer would shutdown as soon as it was turned on in the morning which was problematic."

Solution That Worked

The school district first learned of Faronics Power Save through direct mail and immediately saw an opportunity. They quickly tried the demo on the workstations and were so impressed by the power consumption reports that they instantly deployed it on all their Windows workstations.

"We noticed the product was working as expected immediately. Best of all it has not wasted any time or resources of IT personnel" said Abdelmalak.

One of the key features of Power Save is the ability to personalise and schedule shutdowns. Tanks to this feature, Abdelmalak has now scheduled and customised the majority of the district's computers to shutdown after two hours of inactivity.

Abdelmalak was also pleased with the service at Faronics. "Dealing with our Faronics sales representative and technical support has always been a positive experience. We appreciate that Faronics takes suggestions from its customers which help create newer and better versions of the product," said Abdelmalak."In the nine month time frame that we have used Power Save the software has already been improved considerably."

Any hesitation experienced from staff was quickly dismissed when they learned the benefits of PC power management. Not only has the district increased their energy efficiency, but they have prevented unnecessary spending on utilities that would otherwise be cut from other programs.

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Because of the way the district's energy consumption is billed, the most accurate way for the school district to determine the savings was to compare a monthly electric bill with the same month in the previous year. The results are already significant and the district can't wait to be able to compare an entire year's worth of energy and dollar savings.

Like many organisations focused on sustainability, PC power management was just one of a variety of green initiatives enjoyed by the district. Other initiatives included a server consolidation and server virtualisation. Virtualisation allowed them to remove over 50% of their servers and reduced the cooling requirements in their data centre allowing them to shutdown one HVAC unit that had previously been running 24/7.

"All of the projects including Power Save have had a significant impact on our green efforts," said Abdelmalak. By employing green projects, like the adoption of a dedicated PC power management solution, the district is not only helping the environment, but they are sending a strong message to future generations of students.

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What is Faronics Power Save?

Faronics Power Save delivers desktop computer energy management that can be managed enterprise-wide and is non-disruptive to user or IT processes.

Key Benefits

- Intelligent computer energy management

- Non-disruptive to user or IT processes

- Power consumption and savings reports

- Audit Mode enables measurement & verification

- Schedule various levels of energy management with Power Plans and Policies

- Deployed and managed through Faronics Core

- Windows & Mac OS X support

To learn how your computing environments can benefit from Faronics Solutions, visit
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