

# Northern Humboldt Union High School District

Humboldt, California



## Company Overview

The Northern Humboldt Union High School District has two high schools, two continuation schools, an adult school, and an alternative community day school, serving 2,000 students in Northern California.

## The Challenge

The rural, low-income community needed an affordable and reliable way to expand student access to the Internet and educational software without increasing technical support demands.

## Winterm Thin-Client Benefits

The quick set-up and remote management features of Wyse® Winterm™ thin clients solved Northern Humboldt's technical support problems. Support and upgrades can be accomplished without travel time or interruptions and the locked-down thin-client desktop provided better security, and more consistent availability to programs and content for students.

## Seeing the Forest for the Trees

Located on the North Coast of California, Northern Humboldt Union High School District is far from the technology-driven urban centers of the state. Yet, here beneath the world's tallest trees, students require technology training and experience to prepare for the future. With two high school campuses and a student population spreading over a 718 square mile area, the district needed a computing infrastructure to support both school and home use of applications and content without on-site technical support. Thin clients and server-based computing offered the simplest, most reliable solution.

## Wyse Winterm Thin Clients. A Better Solution

The easy setup and remote management features of Wyse®

Winterm™ thin clients saves time for Todd Curry, the district's Technology and Curriculum Coordinator. "Thin clients take about five minutes to set up, instead of one to two hours," he says. With server-based management, he doesn't need to go to a classroom or a school to correct a simple problem. The locked-down thin-client desktops also prevent students from loading unwanted software or changing configurations.

When Curry upgrades applications, anti-virus software, or any other programs on the server, they are immediately available on all thin

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**Smarter. Easier. Thinner.**  
Innovative Thin Clients from Wyse.

## *The Solution*

Northern Humboldt Union High School District deployed 32 Wyse Winterm 3350SE Windows-based terminals in each high school's library. Both Arcata and McKinleyville High Schools have three application servers running Citrix® MetaFrame™ and Microsoft® Windows NT™, Terminal Server Edition.

## *Results*

The California State Department of Education identified Arcata and McKinleyville High Schools as model implementations of its Digital High School grants program. Even with the addition of 65 thin clients, the district has not experienced any increase in technical support calls.

## *Architecture*

- Winterm 3350SE Windows-based terminals
- 3 Compaq Prosignia 740 servers at each school
  - Pentium® II 450MHz dual processors
  - 1GB RAM
- 1 Compaq Prosignia Server 740 Pentium® III 548MB of RAM (used to authenticate users into the system, store profiles, and store documents)
- Microsoft Windows NT 4.0 Server, Terminal Server Edition and Citrix MetaFrame application server software
- Switched Ethernet network with T1 connections to district office and fiber between buildings, 100baseT to the desktop
- Software applications
  - Microsoft Office
  - Microsoft Internet Explorer
  - Adobe PageMaker
  - Adobe Acrobat Reader
  - Geometer's Sketchpad
  - Inspiration
  - ABC-CLIO ResourceLinks

clients without desktop hardware upgrades or configuration. Affordable thin clients enable the schools to expand access while preserving a technology staff to thin client ratio of about 1:250.

## *Centralized Support Saves Time and Hardware Costs*

When Curry compared the cost of upgrading a lab of personal computers against installing 65 thin clients and a server-based solution, he concluded that the district could save about \$20,000 with thin clients. The savings come in lower total cost of ownership and support, as well as the benefit of bringing all computers on campus up to the latest version of software without hardware upgrades. Both thin clients and older computers use the servers' processing power and memory to run the latest software.

## *Integrator Offers Vision*

The District turned to Computers and Communications, a local Northern California thin-client Wyse-authorized reseller. The reseller took the time and worked with Curry to identify the district's needs and provide options, including thin clients.

When they presented the vision to the District's administrators, they saw that thin-client computing could connect students' homes to school. Curry installed a core set of productivity software applications - the Microsoft Office Suite and Adobe PageMaker - for teacher and student use on site and at home. Home users can connect through their own ISP service

using inexpensive thin clients to access school servers.

## *Results*

The State of California recognized both Arcata and McKinleyville High Schools as models for implementing its Digital High School grants program. Other high schools and education experts alike have made their way to Humboldt County to learn about their success.

"It has widened the classroom boundaries for us," says Todd Curry. "It has opened a whole new perspective on educating kids at school and at home." Curry first realized that something had changed when he saw a flurry of network activity one weekend. He discovered that a major project was due. Students worked over the weekend from home, and printed their assignments in the library on Monday - without any technical problems or lost files.

## *Future Plans*

Each high school has a 3 server farm to support 32 Wyse Winterm thin clients in the library, and legacy personal computers in classrooms and at home. The district plans to replace older PCs with thin clients as funds become available. In addition to the productivity software available, Curry qualifies new software and adds it to the system to increase available education content.

"We are looking for ease of manageability and the best product for the money," says Curry.



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