



## Willington School

**Sector:** Education

**Service:** Audit, Strategy, Implementation, Support

### The Challenge: Advancing education to the next millennium

An independent school needed a new solution that was robust, reliable, resilient, highly secure and most of all simple to use. Also a major consideration was that of the impact this would have on the environment and keeping the carbon footprint of the school as low as possible as well as increasing efficiency and performance.

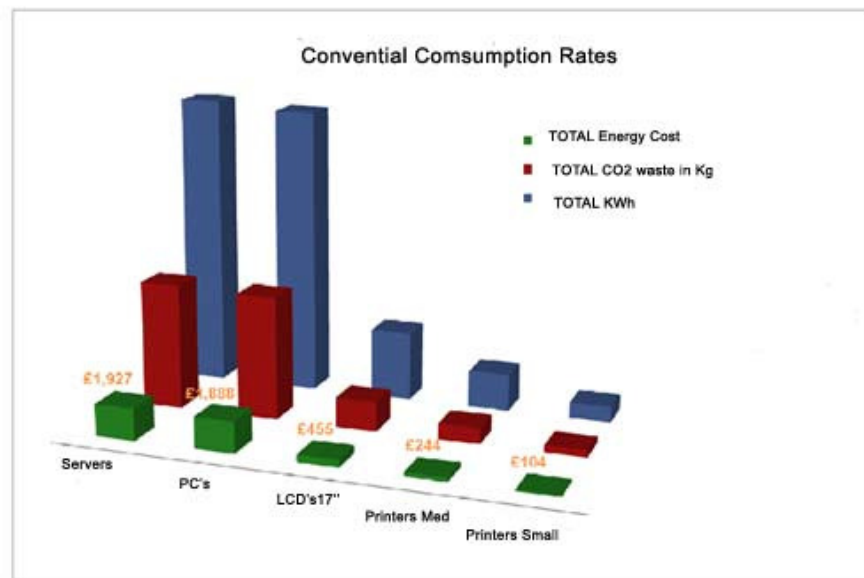
Through various strategy meetings it was established that security and ease of use was high on the agenda, along with being environmentally friendly and energy efficient. This being a school environment we were thrown lots of challenges that were overcome

### Contribution

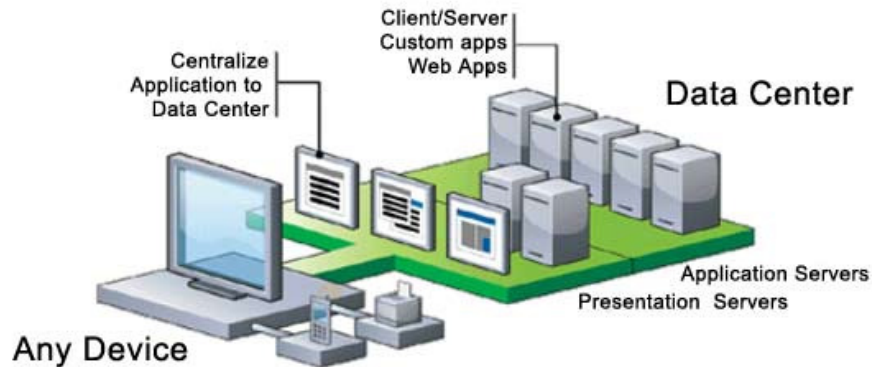
We visited the school a few times to get a full brief and discuss their requirements in detail so that we could compile a full strategy report for them to consider. The report included a full carbon footprint study based on the new technologies that we suggested to them showing them the differences against more conventional methods. In addition to this the report showed the features and benefits of using Virtual Office Desktop (VOD) as the complete solution that would fit all the requirements they needed with scope for further growth should the need arise.

We reported on a strategy that we felt covered everything they required as highlighted below...

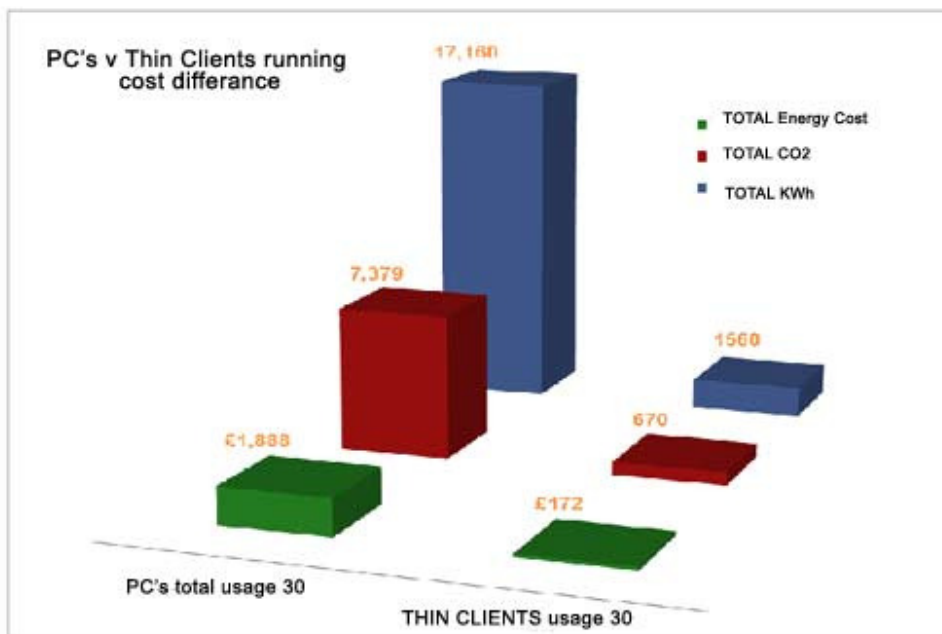
- Having conducted many carbon audits [www.carbonizeit.com](http://www.carbonizeit.com) we were able to show the carbon footprint of the IT we were recommending and put that against the more conventional set up that might occur.

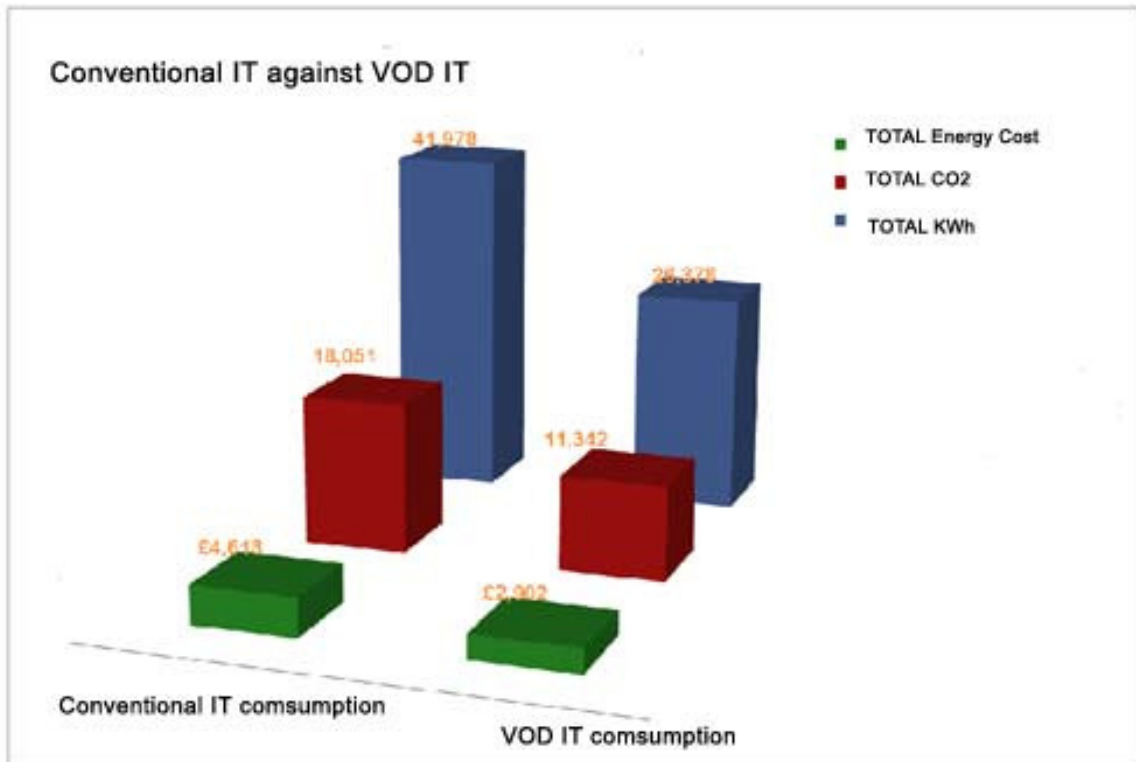


- Then we set about detailing the pure functionality of the system and what it would allow the user and the school to achieve. This included housing the complete administration, accounting, management, and education applications and making them available to all staff and students on and off site. [www.virtualofficedesktop.com](http://www.virtualofficedesktop.com)



- Security was then tackled by a very carefully controlled system that allows the permissions to be set for the individual logging in and only presenting the applications relevant to that person. All the staff have access off site and from any location, be that at home or on a field trip or even on holiday. Internet access for the students is directly controlled from the login point and therefore no access is allowed without logging in.
- Next the actual hardware was considered and this had to be robust, reliable and have a long life cycle as well as being energy efficient. Thin Clients paved the way forward; no moving parts and only 20watts of energy meant that they would tick all the boxes and provide the longevity that would almost triple that of a PC. Being IBM partners we knew that the servers would need to be just as energy efficient and as IBM are the leaders in Green Server Technology they were the obvious choice. [www.artoofcomputing.com](http://www.artoofcomputing.com)





- Usage then played a part, as at times of heavy usage on the system we had to ensure that there was a system in place that would detect this and then load balance to ensure scalability and efficient load distribution.
- Growth and expansion of the system is simple and quick and allows for Virtual Teaching and Shadow environments to be applied when the school feel they may want to explore this route as well.

### The Outcome

Upon seeing our efforts in covering every aspect of what they required and showing them a simple yet very effective strategy to implement we surpassed all their expectations. Of course the cost and value for money played a role in securing the deal.

Andrew Simm says *“The complete service from Art of Computing was seamless with the complete VOD solution being so easy to use; staff and students alike are now comfortable using the thin client computing applications and the access off site allows complete flexibility. In addition, as well as increasing productivity and efficiency our IT is one of the most carbon efficient around and as a result we recommend our systems to other schools”*



They now have a system which runs efficiently and securely & reduces technical support costs, providing a single point control for applications and data files.