VCE

CLIENT

Marian University, a Catholic and Franciscan liberal arts university in Indianapolis, Indiana

CHALLENGE

Rapidly deploy an infrastructure to support a new medical school, with the agility to handle student population growth and next-generation applications

SOLUTION

Vblock Systems

RESULTS

Enabled scheduled launch of new college of medicine while transforming the university into a preeminent technology leader that can efficiently deliver high-performance, highly reliable advanced applications

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MARIAN UNIVERSITY ENHANCES EDUCATIONAL VALUE WITH VBLOCK

SMALL UNIVERSITY TRANSFORMS INTO A TECHNOLOGICAL LEADER THAT EFFICIENTLY AND RAPIDLY DELIVERS NEXT-GENERATION APPLICATIONS

In recent years, Marian University has transformed itself from a college to a university, doubled its student population, and launched major initiatives including a new college of osteopathic medicine. The university's aging IT infrastructure lacked the flexibility and efficiency to keep up with this transformation. Many processes were still manual and university departments often were not able to easily access or share data.

Marian needed to update its infrastructure without putting increased pressure on tuition. To set the stage for the university's future, Marian consolidated its IT infrastructure on a Vblock™ System. Marian now has the infrastructure to enable growth in the most efficient way possible. The Vblock System improved system performance and reliability and enabled faster provisioning of IT services. In addition, increased operational efficiency gives Marian's lean IT staff more time to focus on delivering services that maximize the value of the educational environment.

The Challenge

Marian's IT leadership recognized that state-of-the-art IT services were essential for taking Marian to the next level of growth and recruiting today's connected student population. The new college of osteopathic medicine would require an extensive new infrastructure to support next-generation classroom facilities and research laboratories. And a strong IT infrastructure would help the University recruit tech-savvy students

The previous environment, comprised of LeftHand storage, HP servers and HP networking, suffered hardware reliability and network problems, and virtualization was stalled at 80 percent. The university's IT staff also was maxed out fighting fires and lacked the resources to expand the infrastructure fast enough for the launch of the new medical school.

The Solution

After evaluating HP, Hitachi, NetApp and SkyShare, Marian University standardized on a Vblock System for all of its key teaching, learning and administrative applications. Working with VCE Professional Services and partner NETech for design and implementation, Marian deployed a Vblock System 300. Within two days of powering up the Vblock System, applications were running. The entire migration was completed in four weeks.

The Vblock System now provides the performance, reliability, agility and simplified management needed to support Marian's expansion. The infrastructure hosts Microsoft SQL Server, SharePoint, Office 365 email and Dynamics GP, as well as Three Rivers Systems CAMS academic ERP and Canvas learning management system. The applications running on the Vblock System are fully virtualized.

The Results

The Vblock System has helped transform Marian University into a preeminent technology leader, capable of delivering next-generation services that differentiate the school from its peers. Backed by a scalable infrastructure with greater performance and reliability, Marian is able to aggressively pursue new initiatives, including medical research, distance learning and virtualized desktops. In addition, the University is broadening its academic offerings and providing students with advanced communication and collaboration tools.

With the Vblock System, IT is now a key enabler of Marian's growth and educational objectives:

- Enabled the scheduled launch of a new college of osteopathic medicine with the ability for medical students to dynamically self-provision lab environments

- Improved performance of core applications such as SQL Server and SharePoint by 80% percent and reduced trouble tickets 85% per week

- Advanced virtualization to 100 percent, maximizing agility to deliver new services quickly, whether for departmental projects or broad university expansion

- Become an IT service provider for other educational institutions, providing cloud-based application hosting and disaster recovery

- Improved IT efficiency, growing from 15 to 100 terabytes with no increase in FTEs and freeing more time for IT to focus on delivering solutions instead of troubleshooting

Marian University is able to leverage the Vblock System's best-in-class technologies with the advantage of having VCE as a single source for strategic advice and expert support. So even with a lean IT staff, this growing university has access to the knowledge, experience and solutions to be on the technological forefront, attracting the best and brightest students and faculty from around the world.