Getting around the Budget Crunch with a Cost-Effective Multi-Computing Solution

The number one IT issue on the minds of campus technology decision makers during this recession has been funding, according to the 10th annual EDUCAUSE Current Issues Survey[1]. And as the 2009-10 school year gets underway, this issue poised to take on even more importance as older, legacy technologies will need to be retired and replaced with more efficient, cost-effective solutions.

"Over the years, school budgets have decreased while the expectations on the students and teachers have grown. As we move forward, schools still need to provide access to computing and the Internet in a more cost-effective manner," said Jeff Dowell, vice president, LG Electronics USA Business Solutions. "New technologies like LG's SmartVine™ monitors provide an array of solutions for the education environment while simultaneously reducing energy output and improving cost efficiencies."

This IT funding issue for both new projects and technology refreshes has hit college campuses hard especially with drastically reduced budgets and decreasing endowments. As a result, there is a strong need for low-cost technology solutions, Dowell explained. Understanding that technology budgets are tight and that any additional cost-savings – utility or operational – can make an impact on purchasing decisions, LG Electronics introduced new "virtual desktop" monitors. A convenient, cost-effective solution, these SmartVine monitors, designed to meet the demand for group PC use in educational settings, are available in two sizes, 17-inch class* (5:4) and 19-inch class* (16:9), for a variety of installation options.

Allowing up to 11 teachers, students or administrators to share the same PC, LG's SmartVine Monitors are ideal for all education settings from the library to digital classrooms. In most educational settings, less than 10 percent of the computing power of each PC is utilized effectively. LG's SmartVine Monitors connect to an existing PC and redistribute the remaining 90 percent of that computer's resources to several users simultaneously, using the monitors' virtual desktop software. The software divides a computer's resources into independent sessions so that all users can simultaneously use a single PC, maximizing the bandwidth to the fullest extent.

These SmartVine Monitors can be installed in just a few minutes and reduce the amount of maintenance and IT support needed for a typical classroom environment that requires the operation of multiple computers. Colleges and universities can cut energy consumption and costs, too, because running fewer PCs dramatically decreases the electricity used. Workstations that employ the SmartVine Monitors will also benefit from less heat and noise typically generated by multiple PCs. Additionally, in schools where technology budgets need to be stretched, buying just one new computer when upgrades are needed can dramatically increase cost savings, as opposed to buying multiple new machines.

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[1] EDUCAUSE Review (Vol. 44, No. 4, July/August 2009) – "Top-Ten IT Issues, 2009"

With LG's SmartVine Monitors, educational institutions and students will enjoy a sleek, simple design that makes any work environment stylish with a slim bezel and adjustable stand. The monitors provide a crisp, clear image for viewing important charts and graphics.

For more information on LG's new Virtual Desktop Monitors and other Commercial Education products, please visit www.LGcommercial.com.

* 17" class (17.0" diagonal), 19" class (18.5" diagonal) screen sizes