More than 130 educational applications virtualised within a multi-domain infrastructure

Challenge:

Ease the use of educational software in the 13 secondary schools of the department

Solution:

> Systancia AppliDis Fusion

Benefits:

> Simplification of access to applications
> Easy integration in a multi-domain infrastructure
> Compatibility with the OpenLDap directory and SCRIBE
> Continuous visibility on the use of resources

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The simplicity of use and ownership of the AppliDis solution has eased the use of educational software within the 13 Lozèrian secondary schools. The compatibility of the solution with our specific infrastructure, especially our directory OpenLDAP, was a decisive point in our choice.

Cyril Branci
Responsible for Application Management, Departmental Council of Lozère

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Systancia

The Challenge

In early 2009, the Departmental Council of Lozère undertook the realisation of a plan to equip the secondary schools, seeking to strengthen and affirm the use of technologies in the secondary schools of the department by making available equipment in line with the different educational purposes and needs. This equipment plan includes in particular the provision of computer rooms, internet access in every classroom, of video projectors and videoconferencing tools.

In this context, in order to meet the demands of the teaching staff, the IT department of the Departmental Council decided to review its system for the provision of applications and switch virtualisation solution. Indeed, historically a terminal services solution implementation did not bring satisfaction to the users who complained of difficulties of access and connection to applications and educational software.

The Departmental Council thus sought a robust virtualisation solution capable of responding to this specific problem, but also of **integrating itself easily into a heterogeneous and multi-domain infrastructure**.

The solution

Following the advice of their integrator partner CEFI, the IT teams of the Departmental Council had studied the AppliDis Fusion solution of Systancia and tested it for six months on two "secondary schools test".

During this test phase, **the AppliDis Fusion solution totally convinced and fulfilled the expectations of the Departmental Council**. The decision was therefore made to generalise the solution in the 13 secondary schools of the department. After 2 years of production, AppliDis has become essential to the Departmental Council; new deployments include ongoing administrative teams to the Departmental Council for the provision of business and office applications.

Simplification of access to applications

The initial architecture of the Departmental Council posed a problem to almost all of the teachers, because access and connection to the educational applications was complex and lengthy. For each student or teacher opening an application, a multiple step connection was required (post connection, connection to TSE server, connect to the application). The establishment of the AppliDis solution has enabled them to resolve this problem with a single, integrated, authentication system based on the connection of Windows logon credentials.

Easy integration in a multi-domain infrastructure

The IT infrastructure of the Departmental Council, including the administration of the secondary schools, is a complex structure incorporating multiple Windows domains: a Windows domain at each secondary school. Thanks to its ease of integration and its integrated management of multiple environments, the deployment of the AppliDis solution was quick and simple to perform. All the windows domains are automatically merged in the administration console and administered in a centralised but autonomous manner, which in particular allows an easy management of the different homonyms encountered.

Compatibility with the OpenLDAP directory and SCRIBE

Considering that the Departmental Council of Lozère use OpenLDAP directories and SCRIBE, the virtualisation solution chosen must be compatible with this type of databases. In this context, the strong interoperability and the compatibility of AppliDis with most of market standards was a determining point in its implementation. Updates of the LDAP bases in every secondary school of the department are facilitated: they are automatically performed each night at each facility and fed back at the Departmental Council level.

Continuous visibility on the use of resources

Through the reporting and statistics module integrated in the administration console of AppliDis, the technical teams of the Departmental Council have continuous visibility and real-time resource usage implemented in all institutions: what application is used, when, how and by how many people?

About Systancia

Systancia is a software publisher specialising in desktop and application virtualisation and Cloud Computing. Systancia has gradually become a leader on the European market for virtualisation solutions and Cloud Computing with a capacity for innovation that has placed it among the global leaders in this field. Systancia always strives to best meet the needs of their users, focusing on the technological value of its products and the proximity between its teams and clients. Recently, the French Deposits and Consignments Fund (now known as BPI) added finance into Systancia's capital with the already present A Plus, enabling accelerated conditions for its international development. www.systancia.com.

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