Mosaic Technology Helps Chester College Meet the Future

Introduction

Founded in 1965, Chester College of New England is a private, non-sectarian institution of higher education that offers the Bachelor of Arts degree. The College grants the Bachelor of Arts degree in Fine Art, Graphic Design, Photography and Media Arts, Creative Writing, Professional Writing, and Interdisciplinary Arts.

Chester College of New England embraces the idea that the liberal arts are essential to lifelong education, as well as being the foundation of all creative and professional endeavors. All degree candidates must satisfactorily complete the general education core curriculum, which includes courses from the liberal and creative arts.

Chester College recently implemented a growth plan driven by increased applications and a new administration. In order to help manage and sustain the growth many aspects of the college were evaluated – including IT.

IT Assessment

Chester College's IT infrastructure was in a transition. All the school buildings were connected by underground fibre cable. However, most network and internet access was through consumer level wireless connections. There were two active directory servers with some storage attached. Most information was collected and stored on individual PCs – with no reliable backup policy in place.

Dave Vigneau, the IT director, inherited this configuration and with the President's support set out to rectify the situation.

Start with Storage

Dave determined the best place to begin was with the two servers, add a SAN and begin the centralization process. After evaluating the cost of a new iSCSI SAN, Dave turned to Mosaic for help.

Company	**Chester College of New England**
Located	**Chester, NH**
Industry	**Education**
Concern	**Centralizing and Updating IT Infrastructure**
Solution	**Mosaic Technology provides expanded refurbished IT solution at dramatic cost savings**

"The refurbished equipment we acquired from Mosaic accelerates our centralization plans. The value we got in terms of computing power, storage, rack and switches is enormous. It gives us a very solid IT foundation that we can build on. We are all thrilled with Mosaic's effort and the value they delivered."

Dave Vigneau
IT Director
Chester College of New England

Mosaic and Chester College

Mr. Vigneau had worked with Mosaic Technology previously. He knew that they were partners with most of the leading technology companies—Dell, EMC, HDS, etc. He also knew that Mosaic was the largest distributor of refurbished IT equipment in New England.

Dave explained the College's situation to Mosaic.

Mosaic Listens: Chester Gets More than Storage

As with every customer, Mosaic's technical sales team worked to understand the specifics of the situation in terms of business needs, technical requirements and budget restraints. By taking this wide view approach Mosaic was able to offer a more comprehensive solution than simple storage.

Mosaic had recently acquired some used HP equipment that included storage which met Chester's requirements. The storage was in a rack which included five servers, storage, a KVM switch and console.

Realizing what Chester College was trying to accomplish – and understanding the existing budget restraints Mosaic offered the entire rack and its contents to Chester College at an extremely aggressive price. This solved Mr. Vigneau's storage problem and gave him a key piece of his nascent IT infrastructure.

It also fast tracked Dave Vigneau's plans for centralizing the IT function – for a fraction of the cost of a new SAN.

IT Foundation

The newly acquired equipment formed the basis for Chester College's IT centralization. It lets Mr. Vigneau replace the consumer level infrastructure with industrial strength computing.

The rack and switch (with mouse and keyboard) gives a physical center for IT. The multiple servers give flexibility to:

- Centralize storage for consistent management and backup
- Bring email in-house with a dedicated exchange server.
- Eliminate costly individual internet modems
- Provide remote access to email
- Have a dedicated DNS sever

Platform for Sustainable Growth

As Chester College continues its growth plans (25% increase in students next year), the basic pieces of IT infrastructure are in place – at a cost that leaves budget available for other components (improved backup, additional management tools, etc.). By investing wisely and appropriately in quality refurbished IT components from a trusted source, Chester College will be able to easily support the IT requirements of its anticipated expansion.

About Mosaic Technology

Mosaic Technology, a privately held company, provides IT infrastructure solutions for companies worldwide through three divisions: Value add solutions, IT Asset Management and Recovery, and Used and Refurbished IT Hardware.

Based in Salem, NH, Mosaic has sales and technical offices throughout the United States and associates worldwide. Mosaic provides virtualization, data storage, and management, and email solutions from companies such as VMware, EMC, Hitachi, Exagrid, Data Domain, CommVault, Dell, EqualLogic, Sun, Cisco, and Symantec.