

Customer Overview

The School District of the City of Wyandotte is located in the Detroit, Michigan metropolitan area. The District is comprised of 12 schools and special learning centers with an enrollment of over 5000 students. The District's mission is to teach all students to be purposeful learners and productive, participating, and caring citizens who will establish and accomplish appropriate goals for both self and community.

Solution

- Microsoft Windows 2000 Server & Advanced Server
- Microsoft Exchange 2000 Server Enterprise - Microsoft SQL Server 2000
- Microsoft ISA Server 2000
- Microsoft Windows XP Professional
- Websense Enterprise Management
- Altiris Deployment & Management Solution

Key Benefits

- Enhanced security
- Cohesive authentication and management environment
- Collaborative work environment
- Enhanced productivity and cost savings

"Inacomp provided Wyandotte Public Schools with a single place to turn to for technical expertise and advice for District decisions throughout the Novell to Microsoft migration project. In addition, the team provided ongoing support, routine maintenance and numerous auxiliary such as migration to Windows 2003/Exchange 2003, security assessments, wireless management, and network infrastructure tuning beyond the initial project scope."

Jeff Trudell

Technology Coordinator
Wyandotte Public School District

About Inacomp

Inacomp is a leading provider of professional technology services to government and commercial customers in the largest IT markets nationwide. We provide solutions that address the critical business needs of organizations today, such as IT security, voice and data convergence (VOIP), enterprise access and technology management. Our practice areas incorporate an approach and methodology derived from over 18 years of experience in the assessment, design, implementation, management and support of technology solutions.

The Situation

The Wyandotte Public School District is committed to leveraging technology in the curriculum and support systems to enhance the learning experience for students, parents, faculty, board members and the surrounding community. However, the District's technology environment consisted of aging hardware and out-of-date network operating systems that were preventing the District from moving forward with their strategic technology plans and development initiatives.

The Challenge

The District was facing numerous challenges with their existing Novell infrastructure, such as low security, capacity, reliability and flexibility within the existing server infrastructure. In addition, the Novell GroupWise server was unable to provide the District's staff members with unified collaboration features such as interactive calendaring, meetings and robust web forms. The security of the Novell server infrastructure was almost non-existent and students were easily able to exploit these vulnerabilities, including sharing assignments and storing questionable materials on district file servers without detection. Internet content was not filtered and students could easily access inappropriate websites without supervision or policy control. As a result, the District was in dire need of a centrally controlled security policy for all of the student and staff machines.

The Solution

The District selected Inacomp to provide a robust migration strategy that would enable the District to move from the legacy Novell infrastructure to a new Microsoft Windows Active Directory environment. This migration plan allowed for the cross-platform migration of GroupWise mail to Microsoft Exchange Server 2000. Microsoft's Group Policy Objects were utilized to provide the District with desktop and server lockdown. By providing a cohesive authentication and management environment, the District was able to use Active Directory to control security throughout the school district. Additionally, through the use of Microsoft's ISA Server product and Websense, the District solved the problem of content filtering and reporting.

Client machines were now locked down so that only district certified applications were permitted to be executed. This allowed the District to focus their internal technology resources on more important tasks rather than spending countless hours repairing a desktop security related issue.

The new Exchange environment enabled the District's staff members to easily share calendars, meetings and web form data through the familiar Microsoft Office interface of Outlook. Inacomp utilized a five-phase project methodology which involved discovery, design, staging, implementation, and finally documentation and training. This approach enabled Inacomp engineers to fully understand the pain points of the current Novell environment and define the expectations for the new Active Directory environment. The design phase allowed the Inacomp engineers to gather all configuration information for the newly proposed Microsoft infrastructure and gave the District's staff a chance to express any questions or concerns they may have going forward. The staging phase allowed for a pre-production environment to be created where the "proof-of-concept" design could be tested and certified to ensure it met the District's needs.

Once certified, the infrastructure was rolled out in parallel of existing Novell environment and migration processes and dates were presented to the District. The implementation phase also included the use of advanced scripting methods for importing the 4500+ user accounts into the new Active Directory environment in order to manage the duplicate control process. Careful examination needed to be taken as users were imported to ensure duplicate usernames were addressed based on the district naming standards.

The new infrastructure provided a solid and secure foundation for a powerful and effective learning environment for student, faculty and the community. In addition, the enhanced security, collaboration and productivity enabled the Wyandotte Public School District to reduce overhead expenditures by over \$40,000 per year.