

Modern Data Center Upgrade

Secured Solutions from *Client to Cloud*

Customer Profile

- Industry: **Education**
- Type: **Math and Science Academy**
- Level: **Secondary Education (HS)**
- Location: **Illinois**
- Enrollment: **650**
- Technical Category: **Data center**
- IT Status: **Hyperconverged Solution-VDI**

Client Challenge

Illinois Mathematics & Science Academy (IMSA) was established in 1985 and is a 3-year residential public secondary education institution with an enrollment of approximately 650 students. IMSA employs more than 80 faculty & certified staff. IMSA has been consistently ranked as one of the top 10 high schools in the country.

Sterling happily fielded their questions. Assuming a truly consultative approach without vendor bias to assess, design and implement the strategy that was the best solution. IMSA had been running legacy IBM infrastructure for close to 7 years. Their data center required a major overhaul to keep up with increased application/storage requirements. With the recommended solution, IMSA would need to upgrade their existing VMware clusters as well as deploying new Horizon Virtual Desktop Infrastructure (VDI) for computer labs used by students.

Sterling worked closely with Dell as we conducted several discovery focused meetings around best practices with the IMSA team. After understanding their pain points and goals, Sterling proposed migrating their legacy IBM environment to a Dell Hyperconverged solution. Sterling designed, installed and configured the new data center hardware with the VMware Horizon infrastructure. The hardware included Dell Technologies converged infrastructure nodes with over 50TB of usable storage.

Client to Cloud Solution

With IMSA's investment in new data center infrastructure and VMware software solutions, they have been able to drastically improve the efficiency of their IT staff as well as, end user experience. IMSA reported millisecond latencies with in house and hosted applications for all staff and students. Horizon View has offered automated and simplified management of computer lab's zero clients securely from one centralized location.

The project plan for deployment was necessarily complex and included specific target dates. With summer and winter break deployment periods available, the project was executed in two phases. This included installation of physical hardware, configuration, testing and migration of VM's and crucial applications to the new environment. "I was totally impressed by the level of experience the engineering team had. They made very quick work of tasks that I thought would take days, took hours for them," says IMSA Systems Admin. "I could not imagine trying to tackle this type of complicated project without them." The project was completed with 2 dedicated engineers over the 6-month period.

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