

Newcastle High School for Girls GDST ensures quick and reliable access to educational resources by creating a high-availability (HA) cluster with StarWind Virtual SAN (VSAN)



About the company

Newcastle High School for Girls GDST is a private day school for girls aged 3–18 in Newcastle upon Tyne, England. The school was formed in September 2014 by the merger of Central Newcastle High School and Newcastle upon Tyne Church High School.

Industry

Education

Location

EMEA (United Kingdom)

Solution

StarWind Virtual SAN (VSAN)

"StarWind gave us a redundancy far greater than our previous setup."

Andrew Taylor,
ICT Operations Manager

Challenge

Prior to StarWind Virtual SAN (VSAN) deployment, Newcastle High School for Girls GDST had three separate hosts running Hyper-V standalone. Although replication across hosts was in place for disaster recovery (DR) purposes, the school encountered a pressing issue when they decided to introduce Remote Desktop Services (RDS). The need to expand their server infrastructure for RDS required a redundant cluster environment.

The options were either a dedicated SAN or StarWind. A dedicated SAN was dismissed due to its perceived single point of failure and higher cost, leaving the school with the dilemma of finding a solution that could offer the required resiliency.

Solution

StarWind VSAN allowed Newcastle High School for Girls GDST to swiftly introduce a SAN and create a robust Hyper-V cluster. The new infrastructure demonstrated superior redundancy, ensuring uninterrupted services even in the event of host failure.

The school's future plans include the potential addition of an extra host if they need to expand their RDS servers. The resulting infrastructure not only met but exceeded their requirements, with end-users experiencing seamless operations despite a host failure.