

CASE STUDY

CDW Helps West Morris Weather the Storm

West Morris Regional School District thought AWS' AppStream might be a great fit, then the Pandemic of 2020 hit and proved to be an invaluable asset

The Challenge

The West Morris Regional High School District began 2020 with a small project to move their critical back-ups to the AWS Public Cloud in order to both comply with state and local requirement and to ensure their protection and frictionless retrieval if and when needed. The CDW technical team, recognizing that WMRSD could benefit from AWS' AppStream 2.0, worked with the CDW and School's team to provide them with a proposal. Due to a known upcoming requirement to upgrade hundreds of workstations and facing a future where the lab classes that use intensive applications for graphic design and AutoCAD can and often do make sudden changes that would require additional, future hardware upgrades, WMHSD began a pilot. What no one could have guessed at the time, was that the world was about to change as the coronavirus pandemic swept in and forced all schools to quickly adapt to remote learning.

The Solution

As the AWS AppStream 2.0 solution provides a cost-effective, virtual option for WMRSD relative to hosting classroom labs on premise, CDW proposed this solution to them for their application-intensive classes. CDW worked with the West Morris and developed an elegant solution utilizing AWS VPC, EC2, AppStream 2.0. Using a well-architected solution CDW created a private, secure network using VPCs and created the private subnets to deploy AppStream fleets. CDW then configured the Site-to-Site VPN configuration to make communication between AWS AppStream environment and the customers on-premises environment. This VPN connection helps the user's AutoCAD applications communicate with the license server. After setting up the network infrastructure, CDW engineers created the AppStream images for the classroom labs using AppStream ImageBuilder. After creating the images and the AppStream Fleets Stacks based on the number and size of the classes, CDW then implemented the SAML authentication using the customer G-suite to access the classroom lab environment. In order to assist the customer with set up and tear down, CDW engineers coded automation that start the AppStream fleets 15 minutes prior to the beginning of class and ends them when class is over. This not only eliminates the wait time for students and educators, it also reduces usage (and cost) as it is only active during class.

The Benefits

As a result of hosting their classes within AWS, West Morris Regional School District saved tens of thousands of dollars and reduced their lab class budget by almost 50% over the next 5 years. All this while improving the student and educator classroom experience and simultaneously decreasing administrative work.

Customer Overview

West Morris Regional High School District, established in 1958, consists of two campuses. West Morris and Mendham. They are the only school district in New Jersey to offer both the International Baccalaureate Diploma and Career-Related programs

The Challenge

West Morris initially brought CDW in to assist with securing their back-ups in AWS. As their trusted advisor, CDW recognized the benefits AWS' AppStream 2.0 could bring to their lab classes that utilized dense applications from Adobe and AutoCAD, as they were facing a budget busting requirement to upgrade hundreds of workstations while simultaneously entering the unknown world of remote classes due to the raging pandemic.

The Solution

Not only did CDW implement AppStream within West Morris Regional School Districts environment, they also automated the process in order to ensure that the required applications were started and ready to go when the students arrived, then stopped when that lab ended, saving significant time and reducing compute resource usage.

The Benefits

West Morris Regional School District not only realized real savings, they succeeded in dramatically improving the student and educator classroom experience while simultaneously decreasing administrative work.

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