Success Story:
Antelope Valley Union High School District, California

Organization background

The Antelope Valley Union High School District covers a geographic area from the Angeles Forest in the south, to the Kern county line in the north, and from the Ventura/Kern county lines in the west, to the San Bernardino county line in the east.

Over 23,600 high school students are educated in eight comprehensive and four continuation high schools, with additional educational opportunities offered by a Regional Occupation Program (ROP) and Adult Education campuses.

The challenge

The School District manages twelve file servers across fifteen locations. A large amount of their server space was consumed by extremely large Microsoft Office and JPEG files, with teachers and students creating more and more bloated documents, presentations and images every day. This was having a knock-on effect on backup, with backup windows taking up to six hours at some sites. Even with hardware being upgraded every two years, it was unable to keep up with demand and the District envisaged a future in which it might lose control of its data growth.

The District therefore began searching for new ways to reclaim storage, reduce backup windows and keep data growth in check.

The strategy

The District discovered NXPowerLite Desktop Edition, and was impressed by its ability to cut the size of large Microsoft Office and JPEG files, without affecting their quality. It immediately purchased ten licenses, and the IT team regularly used the software to batch optimize the files on their servers. This technique was very effective, however it did require some manual effort.

When NXPowerLite for File Servers was released, the District immediately installed it on six of their most heavily-used servers. It had no doubts about what NXPowerLite could do, or the quality of the software, having already used the Desktop Edition for four years with no difficulties. NXPowerLite for File Servers enabled the District to automate the previously manual processes and generate comprehensive reports detailing how storage was being used and the savings obtained by optimizing files.

The result

NXPowerLite for File Servers was easy to deploy and configure. The initial optimization run took 3-4 days and enabled the district to immediately reclaim 30-40% of the storage consumed by Microsoft Office and JPEG files. The software continues to run on a monthly basis, optimizing any new files and reporting on current storage usage.

Automation is a key benefit of the software over NXPowerLite Desktop Edition, freeing up IT staff to work on other projects. An additional benefit is that the smaller, optimized files are more usable and easier to email than the originals, further reducing the burden on the IT dept.

The District is very happy with the visual quality of optimized files, with users unable to tell the difference between the original and the optimized version. To date there has not been a single IT support call about optimized files.

"I don't have problems. It's nice to have a vendor you don't have to worry about."

Dan Stewart, Director of Information Systems, Antelope Valley Union High School District

Conclusions

The education sector is encouraged to use and integrate IT in the classroom. But although teachers and students now have the capability to create effective content, they don't necessarily have the time or skills to manually optimize it.
The result: lots of bloated files that consume far more storage than they need to. NXPowerLite has automatically and effectively removed the bloat from these files without reducing their quality, enabling the District to keep data growth under control with minimal effort.

The District is very happy with NXPowerLite for File Servers and plans to install the software on its remaining servers.

For further information, prices or evaluation software, call toll-free on:

+1-877-843-3503 (US) or +44 (0)207 424 8700 (UK)

Alternatively, contact your local software reseller or visit www.neuxpower.com