

“The greater density of the Hitachi Compute Blades will reduce energy consumption in the data center by one third once the infrastructure has been completely replaced.”

*John Lee
IT Manager
Marist College Ashgrove*



Marist College Powers BYOD Revolution With Hitachi Compute Blade

Challenge: Find the most cost-effective and easy-to-maintain servers for virtual back end of a bring-your-own-device (BYOD) program.

Solution: Hitachi Compute Blade 500 delivers greater density with fixed price support.

Outcome: Leaner and greener data center can be maintained with minimal internal IT resources.

The Challenge

Marist College Ashgrove is a leading confessional private school in Queensland, established in 1940. Technology plays a vital role in enabling a positive learning experience for the school's 1,600 students. At the forefront of this philosophy is the "Bring Your Own Device" movement that has revolutionized teaching in Australia.

But the introduction of BYOD also brought new challenges for the school's aging IBM® server infrastructure. Parents can buy any brand or type of laptop, and the IT team is tasked to deliver the same user experience and access to applications, such as Microsoft® Office 365®, MYOB and Autodesk, regardless of operating system. The solution was a virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI) with a

web-based interface for Apple Mac and Microsoft Windows®. This VDI runs on a VMware environment, which required a more cost-effective, hardware-based infrastructure solution in the data center.

John Lee, IT manager at Marist College Ashgrove recalled: "We were looking for a powerful computational power at the core of our VDI, to reduce the cost and complexity of our large-scale BYOD program, which we have to support with a small team."

Marist College was not only seeking more value from its blade infrastructure but also easy maintenance. The college also had specific requirements for the new servers' density to reduce the school's power consumption and environmental footprint.



Marist College Ashgrove

INDUSTRY

Education

SOLUTION

Servers

HARDWARE

Hitachi Compute Blade 500

SERVICES

Provided by Insync Technology, a silver-level Hitachi TrueNorth Partner

Outcomes

- Low-maintenance platform supports up to 2,500 endpoints with six IT staff.
- Server consolidation reduces hardware footprint by 40%.
- Data center consumes 1/3 less power.

The Solution

Marist College chose to standardize and significantly rationalize its compute resources into the next-generation Hitachi Compute Blade 500 (CB 500).

"We chose HDS because it offered the most cost-effective, hardware-based compute solution in the market with superior support," said Lee. "After initial testing on four blade servers, we were convinced that we made the right decision to migrate to Hitachi."

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Compute Blade 500 not only met Marist's requirements for the new platform's reliability, scalability and performance but also allowed IT to consolidate the number of servers with denser blades. Lower maintenance fees were another key advantage, with three-year fixed price maintenance included in the purchasing price.

"The fixed-price maintenance HDS offers for its blade servers means we have control over cost while leveraging the deep product knowledge of their team as well as implementation partner, Insync," said Lee.

As experts in the education space, Hitachi TrueNorth Partner Insync Technology provided the initial implementation and infrastructure, and acts as the first point of contact for support with the ability to escalate to HDS as required.

"Insync Technology's team is really easy to work with. They provide us with services in a number of different areas, including software and telephony and know our IT inside out. By choosing Insync together with Hitachi, we're confident that we bought a system where we can get support easily," Lee said.



The Outcome

Hitachi CB 500 delivered significant benefits to Marist College's BYOD program, allowing the school to maintain and service up to 2,500 endpoints with a small team of six IT staff.

"We now have a system that helps us maintain a rolling system of 1,600 BYOD laptops, plus desktops in the laboratories, without any issues," said Lee.

There were also certain product features of CB 500 that were not among the key requirements but are making a difference for Lee and his team.

"We were really impressed with the Hitachi interface, which is a lot easier to interact with," explained Lee. "Hitachi continues to introduce new features and we're confident that we always purchase the best available technology in the market, all fully supported and backwards compatible."

Importantly for the bottom line, the server upgrade allows the college to ultimately consolidate the number of servers from 20 to 12,

due to the greater density and performance of the Hitachi blades. This reduces the hardware footprint of the VMware environment by 40%.

Combined with fixed-price maintenance and energy savings, Marist College expects the HDS solution to deliver better value and a greener, more efficient data center.

"The greater density of the Hitachi Compute Blades will reduce energy consumption in the data center by 1/3 once the infrastructure has been completely replaced," concluded Lee.

About HDS

Digital transformation improves enterprises' cost-efficiency, time to market, customer experience, and revenue through better data management. Hitachi Data Systems uses data to power the digital enterprise. HDS.com.

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