

Antioch Unified School District's innovative partnership with Dell KACE initially saves more than \$60,000



"We agree with our students about how important it is to save energy, which we can do with our Dell KACE Appliance."

Bennie Driskell, supervisor of technology support for AUSD

Customer profile

Industry:	Education
Country:	United States
Employees:	1,900
Website:	http://www.antioch.k12.ca.us

Business need

Antioch Unified School District (AUSD) in California was searching for a "green technology" solution. The main objective being to control its power usage, benefit from available energy rebates by the state's leading electricity provider and put the savings back into the classroom.

Solution

After deploying the Dell KACE™ K1000 Management Appliance, AUSD began using its power management feature to save electricity, earn state rebates and lower its overall carbon footprint.



Save Time. Save Your Organization Money

- Reduced 98 percent of the machines left on overnight
- Received more than \$60,000 in rebates for green IT initiative
- Less than one week of training and deployment

Antioch Unified School District (AUSD) is a K-12 system in Antioch, Calif., a suburb located in the San Francisco Bay Area near the Delta region. As one of the environmentally-aware school districts of the Bay Area, AUSD made a conscious decision to save energy and money by reigning in power drains from computers left on when class was no longer in session.

“Power savings was our big win. Our Dell KACE representative took care of all the rebate paperwork... and we were left to enjoy the savings.”

*Bennie Driskell,
Supervisor of Technology Support,
AUSD*

AUSD serves 19,000 students from 24 different schools, totaling more than 4,200 endpoints managed by the IT team throughout the district. The IT team at AUSD frequently alerted users to shut down nightly across the district to save on both energy and costs. Despite their best efforts, IT had a difficult time containing an after-hours power drain when students, teachers and faculty headed for home and inadvertently left computers on. Rather than being at the mercy of the user, AUSD decided to take control of the situation and implement a green IT initiative. The first step was finding the right technology partner to execute the plan.

“We reminded people to shut down computers when not in use. However, even after the end of the school year when teachers and students had been gone for a month, technicians would find countless computers and printers powered on in classrooms and computer labs – a waste of energy and money to the District” said Bennie Driskell, supervisor of technology support for AUSD.

District Goes Green; Saves Green in the Process

The AUSD IT team evaluated several leading vendors and solutions in the systems management space, including LANDesk and Dell KACE, to work with as a partner to solve its power drain issue. The team sought a cost-effective power management solution requiring minimal training for implementation and ongoing management. Additionally, AUSD wanted a flexible technology to work with the existing infrastructure

and the depth to handle a wide range of systems management functions in the future – from added endpoint security to software updates.

After a thorough evaluation of all the available options, AUSD decided to go with the Dell KACE K1000 Management Appliance. Dell KACE was selected to manage the district’s 4,200 computers due to the appliance’s ease of use, affordable pricing and ease of deployment. In addition, the Dell KACE appliance offered incredible scope in feature set and functionality, ensuring a seamless integration into AUSD’s existing system, requiring no outside servers or support for deployment.

A feature that stood out to Driskell and her team was the integrated power management capabilities. Driskell knew if executed effectively, the district would benefit from both lowered power bills each month and would qualify for power saving rebates from California’s largest power provider, Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E). In addition, the district indirectly saved money by reducing PC wear and tear and by cutting down on the heat generated by idling computers – reducing its need for air conditioning in its buildings during the hot summer months. By reducing electric bills, AUSD could put more useful resources back into the classrooms for the students.

Technology at Work

Solutions

Dell KACE™ K1000 Management Appliance

Driskell explained, "We knew about PG&E's rebate program and thought it could help us save money – yet just as important to us was lowering our carbon footprint. Kids these days recognize the need to 'be green.' We agree with our students about how important it is to save energy, which we can do with our Dell KACE appliance."

The Dell KACE Management Appliance has several key power saving features. An innovative feature used by AUSD is Wake-on-LAN (WOL). AUSD received a substantial rebate of \$61,500 from PG&E for this effort, virtually offsetting the cost of purchasing the Dell KACE Management Appliance.

On a test run, the Management Appliance reported about 800 computers left on across the district. Prior to the Dell KACE appliance, there was no simple way to see the status of entire network without traveling to each office, lab or school. With this new information, the IT team used the appliance to create and push out a

simple script to shut down computers at 7 p.m. each night. A few computers were left on for regular maintenance. Use of the auto-shutdown feature resulted in determining only 16 machines needed to be left on overnight – a 98 percent reduction in computers draining power and creating excess heat.

Power savings was our big win. Our Dell KACE representative took care of all the rebate paperwork and coordinated with PG&E, and we were left to enjoy the savings," Driskell said.

In time, AUSD plans to expand its use of the Dell KACE Management Appliance beyond power management and use the technology for software distribution, added security against malware and also for remote management work. Driskell foresees the Dell KACE appliance will eventually perform those tasks automatically, which will reduce considerably employee travel time, saving the district even more time and money in the process.



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