

## How we made IT work...

# South Devon College enjoys seamless live migration with VMware

## Virtual machine down-time is all in the past for South Devon College, thanks to their VMware virtualisation solution implemented by BCNS.

South Devon College is a major education provider in the region, offering vocational, degree and development courses to over 14,000 students aged 14 to adult. With several sites across South Devon, the College depends on its IT team to maintain a smooth and efficient system for both staff and students.

### Live migration issues with HyperV

The College had been running a Hyper V virtual environment, but was experiencing problems with live migration. Any down-time in such a busy network is a key issue for users, and this was the main reason the College sought to change its virtualisation system.

### Robust and affordable VMware

VMware is recognised on the market as a robust and highly reliable virtualisation solution, providing the benefit of seamless live migration. The HyperV system had originally offered some cost benefits. However, as VMware's pricing structure changed it became a more affordable solution for the College, and offered the seamless live migration the College was seeking.

### Implementation and support from BCNS

The College chose to work with BCNS because of our knowledgeable staff and years of experience in education IT – and being based locally in South Devon was also a benefit. BCNS was able to guide the College in how to structure its VMware solution, and supply the necessary hardware and licences, as well as undertaking the entire project management, implementation and training.

The initial implementation took a week. There were some existing networking issues to overcome shortly after, but BCNS was on hand to help, working with the College IT team late into the night to resolve the problems.

### New servers are now “simple and quick”

Two years on, the College is still very pleased with their VMware solution. “Creation of new servers is simple and quick, enabling us to test systems easily without great investment in time and money,” commented the College's Mark Wilson.

BCNS has returned a couple of times since the implementation, for 2-3 days, to help the College further expand and improve its VM environment.

**Sector:** Education – FE/HE college  
**Client:** South Devon College, Paignton  
**System:** VMware virtualisation solution ([www.vmware.com/uk](http://www.vmware.com/uk))  
including:  
8 x ESXi hosts  
18TB storage  
40 virtual machines  
1 x Veeam back-up server with 9TB storage



South Devon College has been working with BCNS for two years on implementing its virtual environment. This has been a relatively simple and straightforward process due to the knowledgeable and helpful staff.

I would recommend BCNS to anyone thinking of implementing virtualisation into their organisation.”

Mark Wilson,  
Deputy Computer Services Manager,  
South Devon College