

Case study

Nazarbayev University boosts learning with PCs, thin clients and laptops



HP end-user devices deliver powerful performance to students and staff alike

Industry
Education

Objective

Nazarbayev University needed to equip its entire campus with every aspect of technology from personal user devices to back-end infrastructure. It needed a tier-one partner with the local presence and wide solution portfolio to meet its requirements

Approach

The university identified a list of key criteria, such as cost, performance and functionality, and weighed potential vendors against it. HP proved to have the best price-performance ratio, in tandem with a significant local footprint

IT matters

- Installing applications once on the server makes life easy for the IT team because they don't have to touch each individual device
- Maintaining thin clients is simple and their reliability is demonstrated by the total lack of hardware failure in five years

Business matters

- Creating a comfortable learning environment is easy with thin clients
- Working within a strict budget became more straight forward due to the cost-effectiveness of thin clients versus traditional desktop PCs



Nazarbayev University enjoys advanced flexibility and functionality at low cost

Founded in 2010, Nazarbayev University is a modern and rapidly developing university in Kazakhstan. From the outset, technology has been instrumental in creating an effective learning environment. The university therefore partnered with HP to deploy a range of hardware, from thin clients to laptops and servers, for the best functionality, performance and reliability.



NAZARBAYEV
UNIVERSITY

Customer at a glance

Applications

- Microsoft Office

Hardware

- HP t730 Thin Client

Challenge

Prioritising technology requirements

Founded in 2010, Nazarbayev University is a modern and rapidly developing international university located in Astana, the capital of the Republic of Kazakhstan. It is the first university in Kazakhstan committed to working in accordance with international academic standards and guided by the principles of autonomy and academic freedom. Its academic and research programmes are designed in partnership with leading universities ranked among the top higher education institutions in the world.

During the construction process, technology was prioritised. However, to control costs, the university preferably wanted a single tier-one partner that could deliver across multiple requirements. The university needed to equip the entire estate, including over 2,000 user devices and 1,500 printing devices as well as servers and storage.

One of the most important elements of the project was equipping the library with HP thin clients connected to a Library Management System: "Thin clients are easier to support so we wanted to trial them first in the library with a view to possibly migrating the majority of all devices on campus to the thin client model," adds Askar Boranbayev, deputy general director of PI "NULITS".

Solution

HP thin clients for students

Nazarbayev University most recently deployed 100 HP t730 Thin Clients running numerous applications, such as Microsoft® Office, from a central secure data centre.

"The library is at the heart of any university so it is critical to equip it with the tools students need and thin clients do that perfectly," continues Boranbayev. "Students use them to do research and access the library information system."

The HP thin clients also proved valuable during a series of local and international Olympiads hosted by Nazarbayev University. When the World Computer Science Championship came to the campus, the special applications required were made easily available through a single server installation, where each device could instantly access.

Benefits

Simplified management

The HP thin clients not only require less management and simplify application provisioning, but they also need less physical maintenance. Unlike thin clients, desktop PCs require the regular cleaning of fans, for example, which takes time and effort while putting the device out of service for a time. Thin clients also use less energy and generate less heat.

This simplicity of operation and management of the HP t730 Thin Clients goes hand in hand with total reliability. Since the original deployment over five years ago, the university has encountered no hardware failure despite heavy usage.

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