Case study

Sint-Lutgardis Mol improves workflow for teachers with new printers

LaserJet and PageWide halve cost of ownership

Industry
Education

Objective
Improving workflow and reducing the cost of ownership

Approach
Worked with HP Partner on making the transition from copying to printing

IT matters
- Decentralised approach instead of central print and copying room
- Replaced three centrally located machines with a dozen HP printers
- Installation of tracking and audit software by HP Partner

Business matters
- Reduce total cost of ownership by more than 50%
- Updated mobile print environment, tailored to the needs of the digital age
- Improved workflow for the teachers
- 58 prints per minute instead of waiting up to 48 hours for copies

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– Philippe Blockx, ICT coordinator, Sint-Lutgardis Mol

Secondary school upgrades printers

Secondary school Sint-Lutgardis Mol in the Belgian town of Mol has more than halved its cost of ownership, and significantly improved workflow. It swapped an outdated central print room with full-time operator for a dozen smaller, decentralised printers. The HP devices were bought from an HP Partner, which provided additional services including third-party tracking and audit software PaperCut.

Challenge

Patience

When teachers at Sint-Lutgardis Mol wanted to make print copies for use in their classes, they had to be somewhat patient. "We used to have one large machine in a central print room. This was run by an operator," said Philippe Blockx, ICT coordinator at the school that forms part of the KSOM (Catholic Secondary Education in the region Mol). In practice, that meant that whenever the teachers needed copies, they had to give their print assignments to the operator working in the central print room.

With 620 pupils and 90 teachers generating 100,000 prints a month on average, the central print room was a busy place and it could sometimes take as long as 48 hours to get a single assignment done. Although a centralised printing and copying system is still very much the norm in the Flemish education system, Sint-Lutgardis Mol wanted to "enter the digital printing age," Blockx said, by moving to a system that was easier to use for the teachers and was more cost-effective for the school.

Solution

Out with the old

HP's partner convinced the schools to decentralise its print needs by swapping a single machine in the central print room for a dozen HP LaserJet Enterprise M605x and HP PageWide Pro 477 Multifunction Printer (MFP) devices to be used by the teachers themselves. The school and HP Partner worked out that the full-time operator in the print room cost two cents per print, in addition to the cost of equipment and supplies.

"They also advised us on which models would be best suitable for our printing needs," Blockx said.

Once the school had seen the HP latest models, it opted for a complete overhaul. "We've changed everything," Blockx said. The old copiers in the central print room were discarded and in came seven HP PageWide Pro 477 Multifunction Printer (MFP) and three HP PageWide Managed Color E58650 series Multifunction Printer (MFP) for the administration offices while five HP LaserJet Enterprise M605x printers were set up in the teachers' staff room.

PaperCut, a third-party software programme used for tracking and auditing, was integrated with the HP Partner and Wisa, a commonly used administration software programme in primary and secondary education.

Customer at a glance

Hardware
• HP LaserJet Enterprise M605x

• HP PageWide Pro 477dw
  Multifunction Printer

• HP PageWide Managed Color E58650 series
  Multifunction Printer

Software
• PaperCut (integrated with Wisa)

HP services
• HP Partner Managed Print Services contract

Benefits

Cost controls
Why did the school opt for the HP LaserJet Enterprise M605x and the HP PageWide Pro 477 Multifunction Printer (MFP)? Cost control is always an issue in the education sector, and at Sint-Lutgardis Mol it was no different.

"We chose the HP LaserJet Enterprise M605x mainly for the print cost, which was very low," Blockx said. "For example, you can set up how much toner you want to use, which reduces costs even further thanks to the HP Level Pay system."

The school went for the HP PageWide Pro 477 Multifunction Printer (MFP) "because we occasionally still have to do some copying, and with this machine we can print in colour," Blockx added. An added bonus: the HP PageWide Pro 477 Multifunction Printer (MFP) has the lowest cost of ownership and one of the fastest print speeds in its class.

The low energy use of the devices also appealed. The HP The HP LaserJet Enterprise M605x, which also has a stapler, consumes less energy than any other device in its class. For example, it can be programmed to switch itself off when not in use and cartridges get recycled for free. "It all counts," Blockx said.

One of the other main benefits of the new system is improved workflow for the teachers. Instead of a time-consuming system dependent on a few machines without a backup in case of a breakdown that would sometimes need 48 hours to produce print copies, the HP LaserJet Enterprise M605x devices in the staff room produce up to 58 pages per minute.

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The decentralised approach means the staff can now print from multiple locations. "Teachers can either print wirelessly from their own laptops, or use any of the four PCs that are set up in the staff room," Blockx said.

The integration between PaperCut and Wisa allowed the school to automatically charge prints made to the accounts of each individual pupil, as is customary in the education system in Flanders. If pupils need to make copies, they can go to the administration office which will use the HP PageWide Pro 477 Multifunction Printers (MFP). But Blockx also wants to make life easier for the pupils. The next step, he said, is to set up a printing system for the pupils which will allow them to send print assignments from home.

The school has a Managed Print Services contract with HP, so if any of the toners are nearly finished, HP will send new toners automatically. Should there be a need for a repair, an HP technician will visit the next day.

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