

# Watchung Hills Regional High School



## All-in-One VDI / HCI Solution, Simplicity, 50% Savings in Time & TCO



Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) is a dynamic learning community dedicated to empowering students for excellence in intellectual and social growth. Focused on individual wellness and mutual respect, the school's educators and staff follow the motto of ENCOURAGE, EMPOWER, EXPLORE, and EXCEL.

Amid this commitment, the school faced a significant challenge in late 2023 – the impending renewal of its server infrastructure with the incumbent vendor, VMware. The administration found itself grappling with the complexities of VMware, particularly after its acquisition by Broadcom. Escalating software and support costs, coupled with personnel retention challenges and support quality, presented a formidable obstacle. Determined to surpass student needs while overcoming these hurdles, WHRHS sought a transformative solution.

### CHALLENGES

- Complex environment, burdensome to manage
- Separate vendors for VDI and HCI solutions
- Independent hardware requirements for VDI and HCI platforms
- Underperforming, extensive personnel time commitment
- High capital cost for name-brand hardware

### BUSINESS NEEDS

Simplified solution to meet the needs of the schools Virtual Desktop and Server Infrastructure (VDI / VSI) while improving overall performance:

- Modernization and consolidation of virtualization systems
- Simplifying the complex architecture
- Improving scalability
- Reduce capital and operational expenses
- Reduce overall hardware dependencies

### HIVEIO PRODUCT

- Hive Fabric™

### BENEFITS

- \$50k savings on hardware costs
- \$10K annual savings on support costs
- Simplified management
- 40% reduction in server hardware
- Top tier support
- Proactive monitoring with Hive Sense
- 50% increase in solution performance

### Moving to HIVEIO – Anthony Meluso, Director - Technology

*“The move to HIVEIO was a lifesaver, saving us from the chaos at VMware. The combined licensing approach (for VDI and HCI) and the flexibility to use commodity hardware to commingle VDI and HCI in the same cluster, have translated into a smoother and cost-efficient virtualization environment. We really feel like we have dodged a bullet with our move to HIVEIO.”*



Watchung Hills Regional High School is a highly performing secondary institution that is committed to excellence and equity. Technology and STEAM initiatives complement a rich array of academic and co-curricular opportunities, including 24 AP courses, 31 interscholastic sports, and more than 60 clubs and activities. Students develop leadership skills and contribute to our school community through student government, student-run publications, service organizations, academic competitions, and award-winning performing arts programs.



HiveIO was started with one goal in mind – to create an advanced cloud computing paradigm at a fraction of current costs with simplicity at its core. Leveraging years of experience in large-scale infrastructure and a deep understanding of end-user needs, HiveIO effectively balances the requirements for enterprise IT with security and cost to offer the most simplistic, effective software-defined data center solution in the industry for all your desktop, server, and storage requirements.

## SOLUTION

Hive Fabric™ is a comprehensive solution for virtualizing server and desktop workloads. It also serves as a connection broker for both virtual and physical desktops, all within a single all-inclusive platform and license. Hive Fabric™ is unique in that there is no requirement for dedicated management infrastructure, making scaling incredibly easy and completely linear.

## EFFICIENCIES

Prior to migration, WHRHS used different hardware for VDI and HCI. With HiveIO, the school combined these systems under a single umbrella. The move reduced the physical server requirements by 40% and additionally saved \$50,000 in using commodity x86 servers. HiveIO delivered a 50% increase in operational efficiency, with noticeable gains in performance, scalability, and maintenance activities. Combined with \$10,000 in annual licensing and support savings, WHRHS transformed from a complex multi-vendor HCI stack to an efficient and cost-effective Hive Fabric™ platform.

## SIMPLISTIC MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS

WHRHS benefits from the reduced complexity of the Hive Fabric™ solution, combining management of both VDI and VSI environments into a single interface. The intuitive and easy to navigate interface reduced the overall level of effort in building and maintaining the virtualized environment. Upgrades complete in a fraction of the time needed by VMware. The distributed platform balances resources without the heavy manual intervention previously required.

## SUPPORT

HiveIO's technical support stood out, offering a personalized touch with responsive and knowledgeable technicians. In contrast to VMware's delays, initial contact with HiveIO typically occurred within minutes with any resolution required managed with a sense of urgency. WHRHS enjoys additional peace of mind with the cloud based proactive and automated monitoring platform, Hive Sense. The all-inclusive licensing model, covering features like Hive Sense and Data Protection, further enhanced the platform efficiencies.

## LOOKING FORWARD

WHRHS's migration to HiveIO resulted in substantial benefits, including cost savings, improved performance, and enhanced support. The impact on efficiency and the reduction in maintenance downtime showcased the success of the transition. HiveIO not only met but exceeded expectations, positioning WHRHS for future advancements and innovations in its virtualization estate.

### WHRHS Impact – Andrew Bohl, Manager - IT

*“The numbers speak for themselves—HiveIO has not only improved efficiency but also resulted in substantial cost savings. The impact on time reduction and annual savings is profound. HiveIO has become an integral part of our security posture, paving the way for future advancements and innovative projects.”*

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