



# Success Story

Spotlight on: Copiague Union Free School District

## Providing High Availability for IT Applications

The Copiague Union Free School District serves approximately 4540 students attending three elementary schools, one middle school and one high school. About 750 staff members use various network applications in 5 buildings, as well as remotely.

### **The Problem:**

Last year, the school district was looking for a way to create redundancy for its Microsoft Exchange email environment so that it could improve the availability for its users. They also needed a process for archiving email that would comply with regulatory Federal Rules for Compliance Procedure (FRCP) in the event that they had to retrieve emails for litigation purposes.

After evaluating proposals from several vendors, Connected Technology became the vendor of choice. Not only was Connected Technology's solution going to provide the sought-out high availability for the district e-mail system, but it cost half of what other vendor solutions were offering. Plus, it increased data storage district-wide while improving data protection and simplifying backup.

### **The Solution:**

To support Copiague Schools' mission-critical email system, Connected Technology virtualized the district's Exchange email server environment using the Citrix Xenserver and Netapp storage for its mail storage needs. The combination of the Xenserver and Netapp storage provided redundancy in case of a hardware or database failure, by automatically starting a second virtual server to provide mail services without significant downtime for the users. In addition to the required redundancy and email archiving, the Netapp storage solution doubled the district's storage capacity and simplified their data backups by using "snapshot" technology. Snapshot technology allows the district to back up user data throughout the day without users

noticing any slowdown or interruptions. In addition, this solution set the foundation for the district to eventually consolidate other servers into a more efficient virtual server environment, which will use less power, cooling and space and provide redundancy for any server the district chooses to virtualize, all without exorbitant expense.

Todd Harris, Director of Technology at Copiague Schools, noted, "The solution suggested by Connected Technology is elegant, in terms of methodology and hardware."

The cost of hardware and implementation was also favorable, and its simplicity to operate was impressive to the district. Among the criteria to complete to project was to demonstrate and simulate system failure and Connected Technology effectively demonstrated that the system failed over during a simulated disaster.

### **Making the Client No. 1**

Customer service has always been a priority at Connected Technology, and was demonstrated by the implementation at Copiague.

"The engineer was exceedingly knowledgeable and delivered everything that was projected, on time and within budget, while the entire team was responsive, capable and flexible during school hour limitations," Mr. Harris noted, "**The training that Connected Technology provided to the district's network technicians on the Xenserver was outstanding along with follow up support. I'd highly recommend this solution and Connected Technology to my colleagues.**"

**To learn more and see how Connected Technology can help you, call 631-724-6504 or email [info@connectedtechnology.com](mailto:info@connectedtechnology.com).**

