



CUSTOMER IN FOCUS

Berean Christian School

West Palm Beach, Florida

Using CrossTec SchoolVue as a tool for productive learning in the classroom

School Profile

Berean Christian School, located in West Palm Beach, Fla., has over 900 students ranging from pre-school to high school. The college preparatory school is a ministry of Grace Fellowship, an independent church. According to the school's Web site, they consider their students to be one to one-and-a-half years ahead of their public school peers academically.

Rounding out the college preparatory curriculum are electives, one of which is Computer Applications, available to elementary, middle, and high school students. Elementary-level students are taught keyboarding, while middle schoolers learn the Microsoft Office suite. High school students are given a refresher course before they graduate that emphasizes money management. A more in-depth course is available for advanced students that includes lessons in hardware and networking.

Whatever the material, the one thing classes of all levels have in common is CrossTec SchoolVue. With classes of varying size and age, instructors needed a simple way to not only garner and keep students' attention away from Web sites and games, but to make computer education easier and bring it to a higher level.



Mr. Gregg Parenti uses the 'mouse over thumbnail' feature to see what individual students are working on.

The Solution

Kregg Parenti and JT Blanco are computer instructors at Berean who formerly used NetOp School. In August, the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year, Berean began using CrossTec SchoolVue after upgrading from NetOp School. After deciding to upgrade to CrossTec SchoolVue, Parenti appreciated it immediately.

"Installing SchoolVue was, by far, much easier than NetOp, which was very laborious and timely and involved time on the phone with tech support," he said. "With SchoolVue, we were able to set up all of the lab computers in about an hour."

Parenti saves time with CrossTec SchoolVue in other ways. The feature allowing instructors to turn on and off all lab computers saves five to ten minutes each day, he said.

CrossTec SchoolVue is not just a way to monitor and restrict students' in-class actions, but is also an educational aid. The Whiteboard allows instructors to draw or type whatever they want and deliver it, real-time, to all students' screens. Instant messaging between students and the instructor makes asking and answering questions more convenient and faster. Another way to achieve this is

to use headsets to communicate, a feature also available in NetOp that has been improved in CrossTec SchoolVue.

"The audio comes across very clear, unlike the choppy, latent audio in NetOp," Parenti said. "There's no more, 'What? I can't hear you!'"

Keeping students on-task is never an issue. With one click of the mouse, Parenti can make



Mr. Parenti has used the 'Attention screen' feature to pause his students' work in order to make an announcement.

an attention screen appear on all PCs or black out all PC screens. When those screens are removed by the instructor, students return to exactly where they left off working. Certain Web sites including the popular MySpace.com have been restricted on classroom computers using CrossTec SchoolVue. An instructor can hover over a student's icon with the mouse and see a pop-up window displaying the current application or URL the student is using.

"It's great to have this amount of control," Parenti said.

The Hook

"The hook for us when deciding whether to switch was that, with SchoolVue, more than one teacher could have a license without having to pay extra for a second bloc of

licenses," Parenti said.

With NetOp, a bloc of licenses only included one teacher's license and the rest were for students. When purchasing SchoolVue, the user chooses how to distribute them. This solved what became a problem for Parenti and Blanco during their time as NetOp users. Because NetOp only sold one teacher's license per package, only one computer could run the program at a time.

"If another teacher needed to do something, I'd have to stop what I was doing and let that teacher log on to my computer," Parenti said.

Going Forward

As the school year progresses, Parenti expects to learn even more about CrossTec SchoolVue's capabilities and features. What he does know, he likes.

"We are overly pleased. The product is better than we expected. SchoolVue is a user-friendly, awesome tool. Where NetOp was simply a control feature, SchoolVue acts as not only that, but as a useful, educational tool," Parenti said.