

CAMPUS-WIDE APPLICATION PUBLISHING SOLUTION INSTANTLY IMPROVES PERFORMANCE WHILE LOWERING COSTS.



Garces Memorial High School installs GO-Global for Windows, providing local, remote, and wireless application access while eliminating need to upgrade desktops.

Customer Solution at a Glance

Customer Profile: Founded in 1947, Garces Memorial High School is a private four-year college preparatory high school located in Bakersfield, California.

Business Need: Garces needed fast, cost-effective remote access to a centralized student management system from older Windows 98 desktops.

GraphOn Solution: Using advanced server-based technology and near zero-footprint clients, GO-Global® for Windows from GraphOn® provides the school with fast, simple, affordable access from local, remote and wireless desktops.

Results:

- Greatly improved performance
- 93% less expensive than upgrading desktops
- Improved security
- Centralized administration
- Web-enabled remote access
- Provides for future migration to Linux and PDAs

A few years ago, Garces Memorial High School installed a Novell local area network interconnecting over 100 PCs spread across the campus. The PCs were primarily 133MHz Pentium machines with only 32MB RAM running Windows 98. The main applications included email, shared folders, and some older 16-bit applications accessing an SQL database over the LAN.

To improve performance, security and overall IT services to teachers, administrators and students, the school's IT staff was recently tasked with the responsibility to find an improved solution that could be implemented quickly and within the school's modest budget.

Searching for a Better Way

"We found that the SASIxp student information management system from Pearson Digital Learning was an excellent fit for our environment," said Jim Pace, Data Systems Manager at Garces. "We also decided to add Microsoft's Office Suite for general productivity improvements. But because the 32-bit SASIxp application had to be launched off of our server onto the network, the performance on our low-speed desktops was so slow that the solution was not practical."



Access to Applications Anywhere.



To take advantage of the SASxp system, Garces needed to dramatically improve application performance at the desktop level.

However, the school did not have the budget for the hardware and software upgrades that would be required for over 100 PCs.

One option explored by the school was to migrate the desktops to Linux – which is both free and secure – and then use X Terminal thin-client software. However, the SASIxp application did not support Linux.

Evaluating the Alternatives

“We investigated cross-platform application publishing solutions,” continued Pace. “I had some previous hands-on experience with Citrix MetaFrame, so I knew that application publishing was a very viable alternative. However, Citrix is very complex to install, set-up and administer – not to mention very expensive. I knew that Citrix was not the right fit for a smaller environment such as ours.”

Pace liked the idea of a thin-client, server-based solution due to its inherent security and centralized administration advantages. He researched several application publishing alternatives before narrowing his search to only one contender: GO-Global for Windows.

GO-Global is an ultra thin-client, server-based computing solution that instantly publishes Windows applications for easy access from any client, regardless of platform or operating system. It retains all of the application’s features, functionality, and branding – without requiring any changes to the application.

Application Access Made Easy

“I downloaded a free trial copy of GO-Global from GraphOn’s Web site and was quite pleased at how easy it was to install the product and publish applications,” said Pace. “I set aside an hour and half to complete the installation and was amazed that in less than a minute, the installation was done. What’s more, I was able to publish my first app in less than two minutes. I literally had to go back to the documentation to see if I had maybe missed a step or something, because I couldn’t believe that it was so easy. But, no, I hadn’t missed anything.”

The school found the performance to be equally impressive. “We tested one of our

remote Windows 98 desktops running GO-Global against a brand new, locally-connected PC in the server room running Windows 2000. To our astonishment, the old desktop workhorse literally blew away the state-of-the-art Windows 2000 machine.”

Financial Considerations

“In addition to improved security and performance, we were of course also very concerned about cost,” said Pace. “As it turned out, GO-Global was a very cost-effective solution. We calculated that GO-Global was 93% less expensive than the cost of upgrading the hardware and software at all the desktops.”

Rolling Out the Solution

The school decided to roll out GO-Global to all 100 desktops. The only snag was a minor compatibility issue concerning the Java-based SASIxp application. “GraphOn’s technical support team was extremely professional and responsive,” commented Pace. “They quickly worked out the kinks. Within a few short weeks we were up and running.”

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Data Systems Manager

Streamlining the Server Room

Garces’ server room contains a production server running Windows 2000 Server and Microsoft SQL 2000 for the main applications, a Linux server, and two Novell servers – one for email and one for shared folders.

“We will soon be migrating the shared folders onto the Linux server which will allow us to save additional money by eliminating one of the Novell servers,” explained Pace.

Going Wireless

Due to cable length limitations, some of the buildings on campus were not able to be hard wired, so the school installed D-Link Wi-Fi connectivity equipment to serve the remote buildings. With the lower bandwidth inherent with these connections, server access was particularly slow for these classrooms.

“However, once we installed GO-Global for Windows, application access was almost instantaneous,” said Pace.

The school was so pleased with the wireless performance that future plans now call for migrating to high-speed wireless access throughout the entire school. “This means we’ll be able to provide instant, universal access for teachers and students using laptops and PDAs anywhere on campus,” said Pace. “We’re also investigating online textbooks in order to further reduce costs and lighten the loads of our students’ backpacks.”

Migrating to Linux

Garces is now moving ahead with plans to migrate all the desktops to Linux. “Right now we have 30 PCs in our library running Linux and X Terminal,” said Pace. “These PCs are using GO-Global’s Linux clients to access the server-based Office and SASIxp applications. Our plans call for migrating all the desktops to Linux in the near future.”

Also scattered throughout the campus are a handful of Macintosh systems. “We’ll be connecting the Macs through GO-Global in the coming months, as well,” added Pace.

Web-Enabled Remote Access

In terms of remote Web-based access, Garces had traditionally been a “closed campus” so access to the server-based applications from remote locations was not possible.

“Thanks in part to the unqualified success of our GO-Global rollout, we’ve now decided to upgrade our routers and open up the campus,” explained Pace. “This means that teachers will be able to use GO-Global’s near-zero footprint clients on their home computers to access the SASIxp application, regardless of what type of PC or internet connection they have – dial-up, cable or DSL. This will be another very significant productivity and convenience boost for our teachers, staff and students.”



Access to Applications Anywhere.

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