

Grand Blanc Community Schools - Migration Project

Grand Blanc Community Schools has always strived to provide the best educational tools for its students and staff. Today, technology plays an ever increasing role in how students learn and how we communicate with parents and staff. Grand Blanc Community Schools has a talented staff responsible for managing, upgrading and maintaining the technologies used throughout the District. Over the years, as our needs have grown, Convergent Technology Partners (Convergent) has assisted the District in technology planning, design and implementation.

This summer, Grand Blanc Community Schools began a migration from a physical to virtual environment as well as from a Novell to a Microsoft environment. Moving to a virtual environment allows the Technology Staff to more efficiently manage and distribute applications without having to continuously add hardware components. This has reduced the number of physical devices and reduced the overall cost of maintaining the data center. The scope of the Microsoft project was to rebuild our directory from Novell's eDirectory to Microsoft's Active Directory, migrate from Novell GroupWise to Microsoft Exchange for email and calendaring, and transfer from Novell ZENworks to Microsoft System Center for network management. This migration will enable the District to more effectively provide services to all network users. Convergent worked closely with the District to implement this project, beginning with a strong planning phase. During the planning phase we collaborated to ensure that the Active Directory setup would be organized in a way that would best fit our district. Convergent constructed a test environment for the GroupWise to Exchange migration. All steps that were to be performed on our systems were first tested in the similarly configured test environment to ensure a seamless migration. Through the implementation, Convergent was onsite to ensure that any problems would be dealt with promptly. The last part of the implementation was the imaging of computers in the district with Microsoft System Center Configuration Manager. Convergent was available for this, as well and ready to assist our technicians with the imaging process. Overall, our partnership with Convergent has helped to make a full IT migration manageable.