



Government

Expanding and enhancing **digital services** for residents

Município de Vila do Bispo

To bring new e-government services to residents and businesses across southwestern Portugal, Município de Vila do Bispo worked with Visualforma to deploy a future-ready data center infrastructure based on Lenovo ThinkSystem SR650 servers and DE4000H storage.

Lenovo

1

Who is Município de Vila do Bispo?

Município de Vila do Bispo is the governing body that serves residents and businesses in the Faro district of southwestern Portugal. The municipality is responsible for an area of 179 square kilometers with a population of approximately 5,600 people, and delivers key public services including water, education, urban planning, and more.

The municipality is committed to enhancing quality of life for residents, while also promoting sustainable development and economic growth. Município de Vila do Bispo works closely with local businesses, community groups, and residents to identify and address issues of concern, and to develop policies and programs that meet the needs of the community.




2

The Challenge

Município de Vila do Bispo strives to continuously improve its services, and was one of the first municipalities in Portugal to implement an e-government strategy—offering residents and businesses the ability to access public services via an online portal.

Filipe Paulos, IT Technician at Município de Vila do Bispo, confirms: “We’re always looking for ways to use technology to improve the work we do for our stakeholders. We were one of the first city halls to implement a virtual desktop infrastructure [VDI] for our employees, and our e-government services have even been recognized at a public sector awards event.”

Over the years, Município de Vila do Bispo has expanded its digital offering significantly, doubling the size of its VDI environment within five years. The organization now delivers a wide range of services, from computer-aided design (CAD) software for engineering projects to an enterprise content management platform for public record-keeping.



“At the moment, there’s a big drive to devolve national government services to the municipalities,” Paulos continues. “As a result, the number of services we deliver is going to increase in the years ahead. To ensure we could deliver on the new requirements, we decided to refresh our IT infrastructure.”

As part of a wider IT refresh, Município de Vila do Bispo moved its existing IT systems to a purpose-built data center. The organization’s previous Lenovo server and storage landscape had reached end of life, and Município de Vila do Bispo looked for a future-ready platform to support a new generation of digital services.



“Working closely with our trusted technology partner Visualforma, we determined that Lenovo ThinkSystem solutions would be the ideal foundation for our digital services.”

Filipe Paulos

IT Technician, Município de Vila do Bispo

Building a **future-ready** platform

To support a diverse range of workloads—including VDI and CAD applications for employees—Município de Vila do Bispo selected an environment based on seven Lenovo ThinkSystem SR650 servers connected to a low-latency Lenovo ThinkSystem DE4000H storage array and virtualized with VMware vSphere.

Two servers host the organization's virtual servers, two servers are dedicated to VDI workloads, and one server is assigned as a physical domain controller for the VDI environment, based on VMware Horizon. The municipality has also deployed two servers equipped with NVIDIA Tesla T4 GPUs to help support graphics-intensive workloads such as CAD applications.

Hardware

Lenovo ThinkSystem
SR650 Server
Lenovo ThinkSystem
DE4000H Hybrid Storage
Array

Software

Lenovo XClarity
VMware Horizon
VMware vSphere

Services

Lenovo Keep Your Drive Service



“We are very happy with the Lenovo solution proposed and implemented by our partner Visualforma,” says Paulos. “Using Lenovo XClarity, we can manage and monitor our environment from a single point of control, which is a big advantage for our lean IT team.”



“We used Lenovo infrastructure solutions successfully for more than ten years prior to this project, and in all that time the platform never let us down. For that reason, refreshing our environment with Lenovo was the clear choice.”

Filipe Paulos

IT Technician, Município de Vila do Bispo

3

Results

By deploying a future-ready environment based on Lenovo ThinkSystem solutions, Município de Vila do Bispo has gained the scale-out capacity to continue to expand and enhance its public services for years to come.

“Moving from hard disks to a Lenovo ThinkSystem DE4000H array with solid-state drives has had a big impact on backups,” comments Paulos. “We can now take snapshots of our virtual machines almost instantly—around five times faster than before. Our VDI users have also noticed a big improvement in response times. We’ve doubled the RAM and virtual processors we assign to each VDI environment, which helps our employees work more productively.”



5x faster backups



Boosts VDI performance



Delivers high energy efficiency



As the devolution of public services in Portugal gains pace, Município de Vila do Bispo is ready to support them.

“Recently, the parking fine system changed, and we needed to quickly build an integration between the systems used by our regional police force and the systems used by the national police force,” explains Paulos. “Thanks to our Lenovo solution, we deployed the new digital integration with ease. Next, we’ll deploy digital solutions to help manage IT services for local schools—and with a modern data center powered by Lenovo ThinkSystem infrastructure, we’re ready for that project.”

By deploying a modern platform, Município de Vila do Bispo is also unlocking valuable cost-efficiencies for its data center.

Paulos confirms: “We can now deliver greater performance from the same two-rack footprint while keeping power and cooling requirements flat. We’ve also gained the ability to monitor our power consumption, and we’re delighted with the cost-effectiveness of the platform.”



“

“Many municipal bodies have been devastated by cyber attacks in recent years, and it can often take months to recover. The ability to perform faster backups gives us great peace of mind, and we’re planning to work with Visualforma to build a dedicated disaster recovery environment in the future.”

Filipe Paulos

IT Technician, Município de Vila do Bispo

Why **Lenovo**?

Building on years of past success with Lenovo solutions, Município de Vila do Bispo decided early on that Lenovo ThinkSystem hardware would be the foundation for its new data center.

“Another reason that we decided to refresh our environment with Lenovo solutions is the excellent support we’ve received over the years from both Lenovo and Visualforma,” comments Paulos. “Visualforma is always standing by to help us. Even if an issue crops up at 7pm, I know I can pick up the phone and get the help I need. We also greatly appreciate that Visualforma is based nearby—their support services are top notch.”

The reliability and manageability of Lenovo infrastructure solutions also played a key role in the decision-making process.

“Over the years, we’ve come to deeply trust the Lenovo brand—their solutions are extremely robust and reliable,” says Paulos. “We’re a small IT team of just two people, and the ability to manage all our compute and storage resources with Lenovo XClarity is a massive plus. From a single dashboard, we can see at a glance if anything needs our attention.”





Partner perspective: Visualforma

“The digital systems at Município de Vila do Bispo underpin public services for thousands of people across Faro. We are very pleased that we can support the municipality in offering these important services to the region.”

Tiago Reis

Business Consultant, Visualforma

visualforma
Thinking Technology

How do you deliver new e-government services?

Boosting performance and scalability with
Lenovo ThinkSystem technology.

[Explore Lenovo ThinkSystem Solutions](#)