Education

Streamlining student and staff services

Salesian College Chadstone

Keeping school operations running smoothly with Lenovo ThinkSystem storage and servers, powered by Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors.

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Powered by up to 4th Gen
Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors

Lenovo

Who is Salesian College Chadstone?

Salesian College Chadstone is a Catholic non-government school for boys for Years 7 to 12 (ages 11 to 18), located in Chadstone, a suburb of Melbourne, Australia. Drawing inspiration from the spirituality and educational principles of St John Bosco, Salesian College Chadstone welcomes all boys and their families, celebrates diversity, and promotes relationships built on mutual respect. All in the community are treated as valued partners in laying the foundation for life-long learning.

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The
Challenge

Salesian College Chadstone is committed to helping every student to achieve their individual best, and technology plays a key part in this. The school depends on its IT infrastructure running reliably to deliver everything from learning applications to email for 1,100 students and 180 staff.

For many years, Salesian College Chadstone had relied on Lenovo servers and storage to underpin operations. But with the infrastructure approaching end of support, the time had come to upgrade its data center.

Terry Cristiano, IT Manager at Salesian College Chadstone, begins: "We were almost reluctant to upgrade as our existing Lenovo systems had served us so well for so many years, and were still rock-solid. But we decided to take the opportunity to boost compute performance and storage efficiency, so we could deliver a better service to students and staff."

> "We like the durability and build quality of Lenovo's hardware. Our previous Lenovo System x servers ran reliably for almost a decade, without any major issues."

Terry Cristiano
IT Manager, Salesian College Chadstone

Simple, solid systems

Based on its experience of Lenovo durability and reliability, Salesian College Chadstone was eager to invest in a simple solution that would stand the test of time.
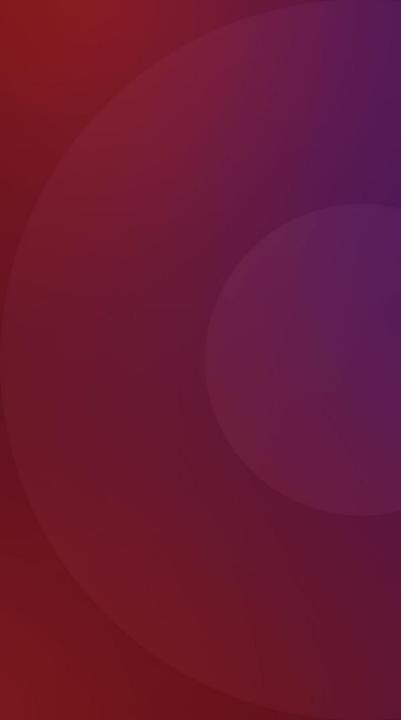
"When it comes to technology, our motto is: simple is good," says Terry Cristiano. "We had lots of discussions with Lenovo engineers about cloud and hyperconvergence, but they weren't the right fit for our needs. We wanted to keep the infrastructure small, simple, and on premises. Unlike other vendors, Lenovo didn't try to sell us more than we needed; they listened and delivered a solution that perfectly met our requirements."

Hardware
Lenovo ThinkSystem SR650 V2 servers powered by Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors
Lenovo ThinkSystem DE4000F All Flash Storage Array
Lenovo ThinkPad X1, X13, X390, Yoga 370, Yoga S1 laptops

Software
Microsoft Hyper-V

Salesian College Chadstone selected two Lenovo ThinkSystem SR650 V2 servers, powered by Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors and virtualized with Microsoft Hyper-V, along with a Lenovo ThinkSystem DE4000F All Flash Storage Array.

Terry Cristiano recalls: "We completed the installation ourselves and migrated 24 TB of data from the old SAN to the ThinkSystem DE4000F over one weekend. That's another thing we like about Lenovo: the kit is really easy to use, you can simply plug and play. A Lenovo engineer was on hand for a couple of questions we had but overall, it was a very straightforward deployment."

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Results

The new Lenovo infrastructure, powered by Intel® Xeon® Scalable processors, can keep student and staff services running smoothly, leveraging the processors' built-in accelerators to gain higher performance and more efficient utilization.

Terry Cristiano comments: "Our Lenovo ThinkSystem infrastructure is simple, yes. But it's stable, robust, and has plenty of headroom for growth, which is exactly what we were looking for. And we know the server racks and the SSD hard drives will be supported for a long time, so we're confident that we have future-proofed our data center with this solution."

The move to Lenovo ThinkSystem servers and storage has also delivered a performance boost, helping to streamline services for both students and staff. "Performance for some applications has increased by 50%," confirms Terry Cristiano. "Backup times have also improved, and now run 100% faster than before."

✓ Up to 50% application performance boost

✓ 100% faster backups

✓ Greater density; 2x decrease in footprint size

✓ 2x quicker snapshot consolidation

✓ Reduction in power usage and heat output

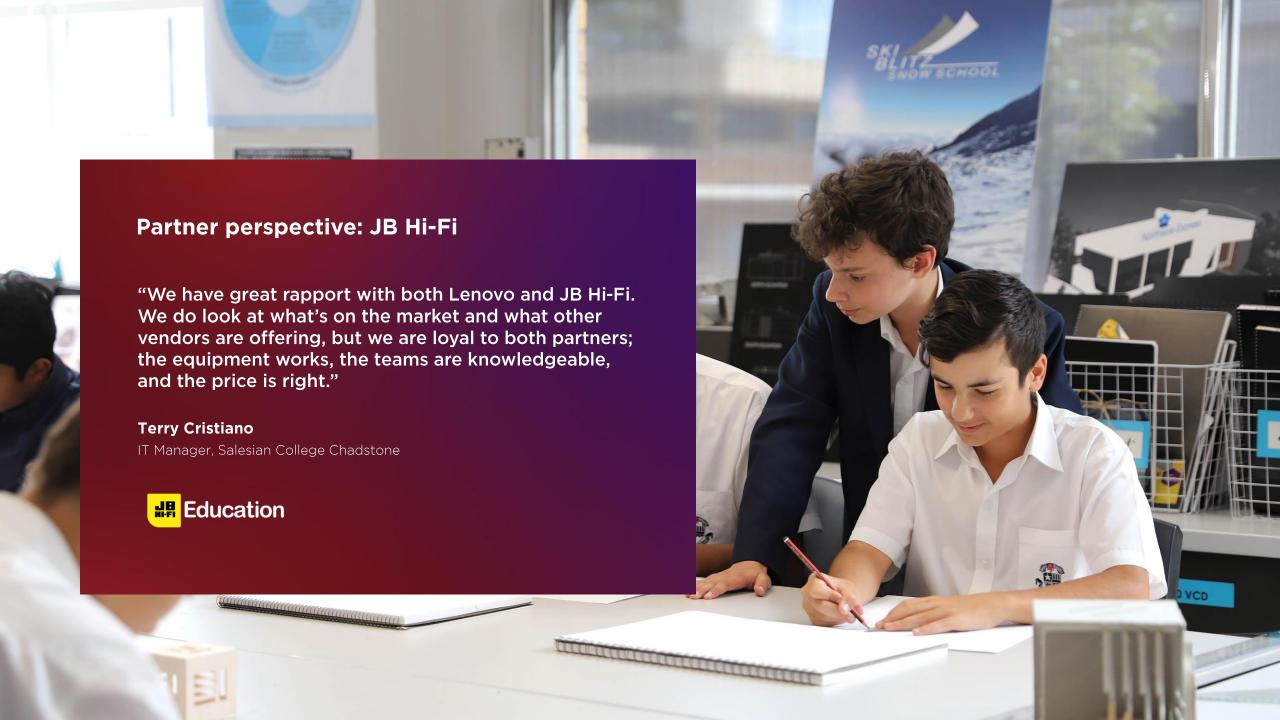*Data provided by Salesian College Chadstone

Why Lenovo?

Salesian College Chadstone is a long-time user of Lenovo data center and PC technology. In addition to its System x and now ThinkSystem infrastructure, the school procures around 300 Lenovo ThinkPad laptops annually for each new Year 7 cohort.

"We've been using Lenovo ThinkPad laptops, notebooks and tablets for years, and are very happy with the durability of the devices," says Terry Cristiano. "Both the PCs and the data center systems are very robust. The ThinkPads pass the drop test, which is important in an education setting. We particularly like the X Series laptops with the 360-degree hinge, as they can withstand a lot of wear and tear from students."

But just as important as the hardware quality for Salesian College Chadstone is the human element. The school has developed a close partnership with Lenovo and reseller JB Hi-Fi over the years.

Partner perspective: JB Hi-Fi

"We have great rapport with both Lenovo and JB Hi-Fi. We do look at what's on the market and what other vendors are offering, but we are loyal to both partners; the equipment works, the teams are knowledgeable, and the price is right."

Terry Cristiano

IT Manager, Salesian College Chadstone

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