



# St. Richard's Primary School

The ageing physical server that St. Richards's were using to run Windows Server 2008 R2 was acting as a Domain Controller, File and Print Server and a Deployment or Imaging server all on one installation of Windows Server.

As extended support was due to go end-of-life, this presented large security and network infrastructure risks for the primary school.

## Background

St. Richard's Primary School is a small, mixed gender school for 3-11 year-olds. The Roman Catholic faith school is in Skelmersdale, in the North West of England, belonging to the Archdiocese of Liverpool.

Virtue have worked with St. Richard's Catholic Primary School for years, providing a range of support tailored to their need. This support includes weekly half-day managed service visits, Gold Wireless Network Support, Silver Core Support and Cloud backup designed for the Primary Sector which backs up the server system state as well as data.

It was on one of the half-day visits that St. Richard's Virtue Managed Service Engineer considered their predicament. We had a detailed discussion with school Bursar, Debbie Wenham and Headteacher Mike Holden about their server situation and options moving forward.

**x3**  
Faster Network & Access

**12+**  
Year Relationship

**x3**  
Improved Server Performance



I've supported St. Richard's for a number of years and we're essentially their IT department. That means they rely on us to give them up-to-date advice and support.

Knowing that extended support for Windows Server 2008 R2 was ending soon and that their server set-up would be vulnerable, I had to help them find a solution."

- Joe Marsden, Virtue Technologies Engineer



Joe, our on-site engineer and Bruce our Virtue Account Manager are so helpful.

As our technology use has grown, we struggled to translate classroom needs into IT requirements. Virtue's support makes it so much easier. The new server solution we have is ideal, it's been built to support us now and in the future."

- Debbie Wenham, Bursar, St. Richard's Primary School

**100%**

Projects Satisfaction

Averaged total scored on customer's Project based Satisfaction surveys

**100%**

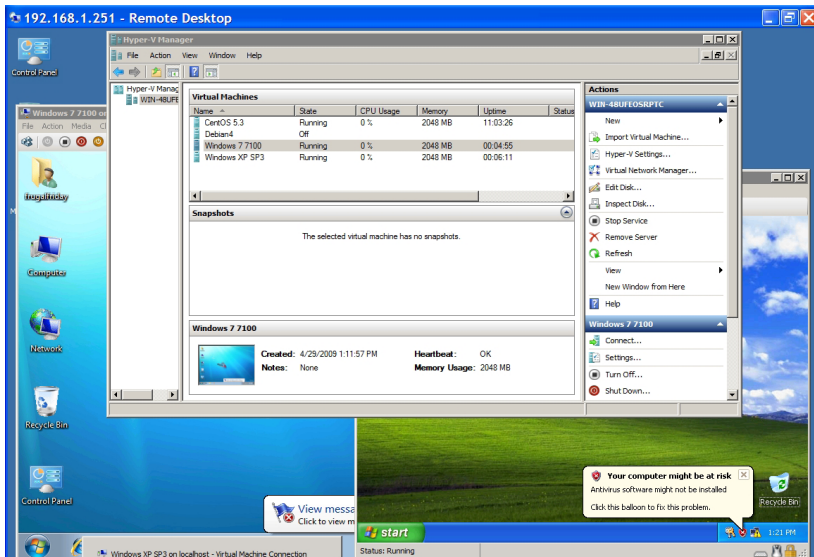
Engineer Visits Satisfaction

Averaged total scored on customer's Engineer Visit based Satisfaction surveys

**99%**

Service Desk Satisfaction

Averaged total scored on customer's Service Desk based Satisfaction surveys



# The Benefits

By migrating the server to new hardware and a virtual set-up, we've been able to give St. Richard's improved server performance.

Their virtual set-up means their data read and write speeds have been improved and image deployment speed has increased. Thanks to the new hardware, they've had performance gains and the domain as a whole is easier and faster to manage.

- **Faster user access**
- **Easier to manage**
- **Improved server performance**
- **Quicker data read & write on the file shares**
- **Increased image deployment speeds**

## The New Server Solution

# 01

Following our recommendations, the customer agreed to replace their old hardware and move their domain server infrastructure from a physical set-up to a virtual option. In this virtual set-up, multiple servers would be brought up on the host to fulfil the roles that were being run on the previous individual server.

# 02

The greatest benefit of the new solution was better performance across the board for all of St. Richard's required domain server roles. Joe developed the solution so that the Domain Controller, File & Print Server and Deployment & Imaging server are all split out on their own standalone virtual machines but sit on a single physical host server.

# 03

The servers on this new physical host server were created from scratch on Windows Server 2019. All the necessary roles and their permissions were installed with data migration taking place from the old to new server, as well as a Domain Controller migration from old to new.

# 04

The old server was then removed from the domain and decommissioned. Virtue's Joe and Bruce spoke with the Bursar and Headteacher to make recommendations and explain the new system so we at Virtue could ensure St. Richard's were maximising their budgets and getting the best value for their current and future needs.



### The Difference

The Virtue planning:

Essentially by building an infrastructure that enabled each server function to sit on a separate virtual machine, we've made the servers faster, more efficient and there's room for growth as the school continues to adopt more technology.

In short, changing the server set-up has made it easier for staff and students to use IT.



### The Conclusion

Debbie says:

"Virtue solved our problem. They delivered a server solution efficiently and cost-effectively."

We developed the host server in such a way that each of their Windows Server 2019 virtual machines is higher spec than was previously provisioned for on the old all-in-one server. This gives St. Richard's the scope to add additional virtual servers in the future without a noticeable difference in performance.

As part of the project, Joe also migrated Virtue's offsite data backup service from the old server to the new virtual domain controller and file server. Our Virtue Imaging Kit solution was also reinstalled, and previously captured images were exported from the old server to the new, ensuring that the onboarding of new devices is quick and easy.

