

Maxta Storage Platform

Thinking Outside the Storage Box

Maxta Teaches Buchanan County How to Maintain a User-Friendly and Reliable IT Infrastructure

MAXTA CUSTOMER SUCCESS STORY: BUCHANAN COUNTY



Maxta Makes the Grade at Buchanan County Schools

Overview

Working for a school district and having to protect important data such as test scores and transcript records of children ages 5 through 18 is more than a challenging job. There is a lot of pressure on the IT team to ensure the safety of such critical data. In addition, schools are not-for-profit organizations and as such, budgets can be small. Finding a solution to store and protect data that is reliable, user-friendly, and cost-effective is a priority, as Chris Bresson, the technical coordinator for six schools in Buchanan County, Iowa, found out.

“Overall, everything has been great with Maxta,” said Chris Bresson, Technical Coordinator in Buchanan County. “When I saw how easy it is to manage – I thought wow – you don’t appreciate all that until you actually see it in action.”

Bresson has to maintain the complete IT infrastructure including servers, virtualization, networking, and storage for all six schools in the county. He oversees the technology at the main campus in Jesup: an elementary, junior high, and high school – all of which are under one roof. He also manages the IT at the other three schools that are located in a more rural part of Buchanan county.

Bresson’s true storage woes and issues were mainly tied to the main campus where online testing, social media and lots of files and applications such as accounting called for a more robust storage solution. He was using VMware vSphere and had about 500 GBs of space left on a NAS device and a hybrid SAN solution that was not reliable. He knew it was time for a new solution that was user-friendly, could integrate well with applications and Unitrends backup systems, and would help him manage and protect the schools’ important data.





The Storage Problem

Bresson works in an all Windows environment, including Microsoft SQL database, accounting applications, administrative files and file servers. He wanted his storage solution to be able to integrate well with multiple Microsoft applications, databases, and file servers.

While Bresson searched for another option, his existing solution was giving him many problems. He had latency issues and even lost valuable data that could not be recovered. “Imagine,” Bresson said, “not being able to access your school transcripts.”

Prior to looking at Maxta, Bresson admitted that his IT team did not have enough space to store all the data that was being used by both faculty and students. They could not transfer files and the SAN environment was too slow. Bresson said finding an affordable alternative was a priority. He looked for solutions that were resilient, user-friendly and could fit into the budget of his not-for-profit school district.

“We needed something that could also work with our backup systems,” said Bresson. “That is when I learned about hyper-convergence and how easy it was to set up such a system and how well it integrates – so I was hooked,” he said.

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Getting an Education on Maxta

Since Bresson’s IT team is extremely thin, he needed a solution that could practically run itself and if he did need help, he could get support easily from whatever vendor he decided to choose. He also wanted significant capacity savings with seamless integration of all applications and backup systems.

“When you speak to a car salesman, you know they are trying to take everything they can from you, but when I spoke to the Maxta sales team – it was not like that at all,” Bresson said. “With Maxta, it was more of a discussion to understand the schools’ needs and you didn’t feel the pressure that other sales teams make you go through.”

Bresson said that since a school is a non-profit organization where the products are literally “students,” cost and affordability was a huge concern that Maxta was able to address.

Learning What User-Friendly Really Means

Bresson learned that Maxta was able to meet all of his needs and more. He said the Maxta team was available to help install the MxSP software that would enable him to simplify IT management, deliver capacity savings, and provide significant cost savings over traditional storage arrays.

The installation of the Maxta solution was quick and easy which pleased Bresson immensely. He said that his previous storage solution took several days to deploy with a lot of back and forth with support.

Results

The results of using Maxta literally “made the grade.” The Maxta team was able to get Bresson set up in no time – and using Maxta allowed him to ensure the safety of his schools’ documents and transcripts and proved much easier to manage. He was impressed with Maxta and noted the following:

- Maxta turned out to be a highly resilient solution that can handle all the transcripts and grades for the students.
- The data reduction feature of Maxta software delivered significant capacity savings.
- The easy and seamless integration with Unitrends as well as all the Windows applications, file servers, and databases.
- Easy to install and use with no elaborate staff to maintain the system.

Bresson said that he thinks Maxta is a great product with superb customer service and would highly recommend them to other schools. “The Maxta team worked hard with me. Overall, everything has been great with Maxta. When I saw how easy it is to manage – I thought wow – you don’t appreciate all that until you actually see it in action.”

About Maxta

MxSP software and MaxDeploy™ Appliances provide companies the flexibility to hyper-converge on any x86 server, any compute abstraction layer, and any combination of storage devices eliminating the need for complex and expensive storage arrays. With Maxta, enterprise customers can build private and public clouds based on any cloud orchestration software. Maxta provides unlimited scalability allowing customers to scale up, scale out, or independently scale compute and storage.



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