Delivering A-grade services for teachers and students.

How **Padua College** used the Lenovo ThinkAgile MX platform, powered by Microsoft Azure Stack HCI solutions, to maximize agility and flexibility while minimizing routine admin.

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Lenovo Infrastructure Solutions for The Data-Centered

Lenovo

(1) Background

Padua College is an independent Catholic day school in Brisbane, Australia for boys aged 10 to 18. The only school in Australia owned by the Franciscan Order, Padua College offers its 1,500 students a vibrant and caring Christian environment in which to develop their individual talents and interests.

(2) Challenge

From the classroom to the back office, technology plays a vital role at Padua College. To help each school day run smoothly, Padua College relies on its core information management system, learning management system, timetabling software, and more.

With the IT infrastructure underpinning these mission-critical systems approaching end of life, Padua College decided the time was right to look for a new solution.

Total transformation.

Eager to reduce the cost and complexity of its IT operations, Padua College looked to replace its traditional three-tier architecture with a hyperconverged infrastructure (HCI) solution.

Peter Yeates, ICT Systems Manager at Padua College, comments: "The simplicity and flexibility of HCI really appealed to us. Since we only have a small IT team, ease of management is a priority."

Of all the HCI solutions Padua College considered, it was most impressed by the Lenovo ThinkAgile MX Series—a fully software-defined platform that runs on Microsoft Windows Server 2019 Datacenter Edition, and includes Hyper-V virtualization and Storage Spaces Direct technology.

"We're long-time users of Lenovo laptops, which have always proven to be extremely robust and reliable. Because of those positive experiences, we were confident that the quality of the Lenovo ThinkAgile MX Certified Nodes would also be top-notch."

Peter Yeates
ICT Systems Manager, Padua College

Partnering with the experts.

Working with a dedicated team from Lenovo, Padua College implemented three Lenovo ThinkAgile MX Certified Nodes, configured as a single software-defined cluster. Compute, storage, and networking resources are virtualized and pooled across the nodes, making the platform easy to deploy, manage, and scale.

"The implementation was really quick, as the nodes come pre-configured," recalls Yeates. "And because we were already using Hyper-V, migrating our virtualized workloads over to the new infrastructure was seamless."

Since the Microsoft licenses are included in the purchase of the ThinkAgile MX platform, Lenovo serves as the single point of contact for the solution—from hardware to software to support.

"The Lenovo team has been great. They took the time to run through training sessions with us and delivered a proper handover once the implementation was complete. Plus, we know that they are always just a phone call away if any issues ever crop up or we have any questions."

Peter Yeates
ICT Systems Manager, Padua College

Results

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Today, Padua College runs many of its most critical business systems on the Lenovo ThinkAgile MX cluster, with some applications, such as its timetabling solution, deployed to the Azure cloud. The school takes advantage of Azure Backup services to protect its virtual machines, workloads, and data using the cloud.

"We run very regular backups, which means our recovery point objective is just 15 minutes in the unlikely event of unplanned downtime on-site," says Yeates. "The beauty of the ThinkAgile MX platform is that there's so much resiliency built into the system: it just runs and runs. And from a business continuity perspective, integration with Azure cloud services gives us even greater peace of mind."

Tight integration between the Lenovo XClarity Integrator and Windows Admin Center tools deliver a single pane of glass for easy management. Automated patch deployment and monitoring free up time for Padua College's lean IT team to focus on value-add tasks.

✓ **Greater flexibility and agility than previous three-tier architecture**

✓ **10% reduction in time spent on routine admin tasks**

✓ **No extra Microsoft licensing costs, delivering excellent value for money**

"The Lenovo ThinkAgile MX platform has transformed our IT operations for the better, making them leaner, more flexible, and more agile. This enables increased reliability, resilience, and stability of our environment for student learning, teacher facilitation, and administrative functions to work smoothly."

Peter Yeates
ICT Systems Manager, Padua College

What will you do with
Lenovo ThinkAgile MX solutions?

The Data-Centered deliver A-grade services for teachers and students with Lenovo smarter infrastructure solutions.

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