

Mondriaan

Mondriaan Education Group makes a breakthrough with Scense

Based in The Hague, the Mondriaan Education Group is a significant provider of secondary vocational education and training in the province of South Holland.

Comprising several previously independent schools, the group employs 2,500 people and offers a broad curriculum to some 30,000 students. Courses include economics, hotel management, fashion, ICT, tourism and nursing, as well as adult education courses and programmes to prepare foreign nationals for life in The Netherlands.



"Scense helps us to use our IT staff more effectively. As a result, we have been able to implement all the projects and ideas we had planned for this year."

Peter Cornet. Mondriaan

The challenge

Mondriaan's IT department faced a number of major challenges.

Each of the group's sites had its own IT staff and made use of different platforms and solutions. Managing end-users and applications was difficult since students and classes were not linked to specific sites and were constantly changing.

Whenever a new application was required, IT staff had to install it manually at every site. With 6,500 PCs distributed over several locations, this could take weeks. In addition, installation of software and updates had to be carried out at weekends and in the holidays because strict government regulations required every student to receive 850 hours of training annually. Losing valuable teaching time in order to resolve IT issues was not an option.

Making the break

Mondriaan wanted to change things radically. They needed every tutor and student to be able to log on at every location, with access to their own profile, data and applications, irrespective of the equipment available. Students on field trips had to be able to work remotely on laptops.

So Mondriaan contacted Altiris who commenced implementation of a Software Virtualization Solution in late 2006. In the process, Mondriaan discovered several additional requirements and Scense was brought in, as an Altiris developer partner, to enhance the SVS capabilities, with specific relation to issues such as log-on times and usability. The combined strength of Altiris SVS and Scense turned out to be the perfect solution.

The Scense contribution

Peter Cornet, a member of the Mondriaan project team, explains. "We contacted Scense in April 2007. They visited us immediately and carried out a pilot installation on 400 PCs used in economics classes. By the end of June, we had decided to adopt the complete Scense solution."

The project was completed during 2007 and Mondriaan was extremely satisfied. As Peter says, "Scense work quickly and have a professional attitude. And, because of their background in IT management, they really understand their market."

Proving the case for Scense

Nowadays, as soon as a student registers for the first time, they receive a profile indicating which applications are available to them, along with a login name and password allowing them to access their profile, data and applications at any workstation.

And the benefits are not confined to the end-user. Previously, 30 or 40 IT staff had been kept constantly busy with urgent IT problems. Nowadays, issues are resolved far more quickly and efficiently and the number of helpdesk calls has been dramatically reduced. Instead IT staff can focus on far more interesting and valuable projects.

Peter sums it up. "We are proud to be one of the most internationally focused and innovative educational institutes in The Netherlands, using technologies such as web-based training, IP telephony and wireless networks. Now thanks to Scense, we can claim to have a very advanced IT system as well."