Moving to Microsoft Hyper-V and retiring legacy VMware infrastructure

Fulham Boys School, London

A sharp rise in VMware renewal costs made Fulham Boys School rethink its virtual platform. OX IT moved all 12 servers to Microsoft Hyper-V during half term, using the hardware the school already owned.



OX IT Solutions Ltd

Project Brief

Virtualisation plays an important role in the day-to-day running of a school. From managing user access and file storage to supporting Wi-Fi, printing and security systems, many essential services rely on the underlying server infrastructure.

Fulham Boys School, an independent school for boys aged 11–18, operates 12 virtual servers across two HPE ProLiant hosts, supported by HPE MSA 2060 shared storage. The existing environment ran on VMware vSphere, with its licence due for renewal in January 2027.

However, a significant increase in renewal costs prompted the school to review its options.

The school already held a Microsoft Windows Server Datacenter licence, which includes Hyper-V virtualisation. Moving to Microsoft's platform therefore offered an opportunity to remove the additional hypervisor licensing costs without compromising the functionality of its server environment.

The migration presented a number of practical considerations. The 12 servers supported essential services, including domain controllers, Wi-Fi authentication, printing, staff and student file shares, door access, certificate authority and catering and biometric systems.

Any disruption to these systems needed to be kept to a minimum, with the migration scheduled to take place entirely within the October half-term.

The school also wanted to retain its existing servers and storage, avoiding the additional expense of purchasing replacement hardware.

The Solution



OX IT Solutions took a phased approach to move the school from VMware vSphere to Microsoft Hyper-V, ensuring a working server environment remained available throughout the migration.

Following initial health checks and backup verification, OX IT consolidated all 12 servers onto one host, allowing the second to be rebuilt with Windows Server 2025 Datacenter, Hyper-V and failover clustering. The existing shared storage was adapted for the new platform, alongside the introduction of resilient 10 GbE networking.

Each server was migrated while running, with a short interruption during the switch to Hyper-V. Key systems were tested as they moved, ensuring Wi-Fi, printing, file shares, door access and catering continued to operate correctly.

Once the first host was complete, OX IT rebuilt the second and configured the two-node failover cluster. Microsoft validation was successfully completed, with further testing confirming that virtual servers could move between hosts without dropping connections. The firmware on both hosts was updated as part of the work, ensuring the existing hardware was brought up to date.

A problem with one migration tool was overcome using an alternative, keeping the project on schedule. OX IT also identified and removed an unused, outdated web application, eliminating a potential security risk.

By the end of half-term, all 12 servers had been migrated, with VMware fully retired.

The Benefits

Fulham Boys School now benefits from a validated two-node Hyper-V failover cluster, providing a more cost-effective and resilient platform for its IT infrastructure.

Moving away from VMware removes the need for a separate hypervisor licence renewal, making use of the Windows Server Datacenter licensing the school already holds. Both existing hosts and the shared storage were also retained, avoiding the cost of replacement hardware.

The new setup provides greater resilience, allowing virtual servers to restart on the second host if one fails. Redundant 10 GbE networking also protects host management, meaning a single cable or switch port failure won't interrupt access. Routine maintenance is also easier, with the IT team able to take one host offline for updates while services continue running on the other.

OX IT provided a full handover document and training session, giving the school's IT team the knowledge to manage the new environment independently.



"OX IT delivered a **cost effective** and comprehensive solution to our hypervisor issue. The work was carried out **smoothly** with **hardly any downtime**. Will definitely look to work with them again."

Naqi Razvi, IT Manager, Fulham Boys School

Contact Us

Get in touch to request a consultation with a member of our team.



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