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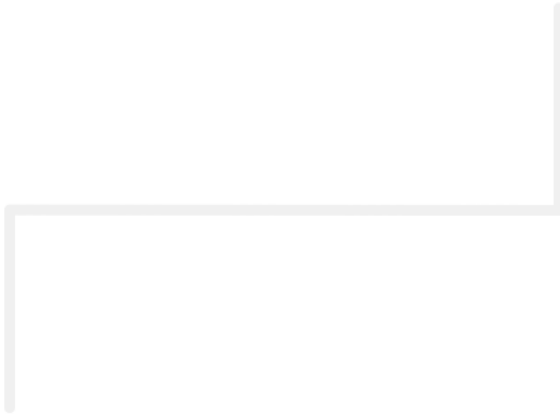
Distributed Networking Pays Off

Davenport Group and Deer Creek School District work together to design and install a networking solution to meet the growing needs of students, teachers, and administrators.

Growing Pains

Deer Creek Schools was looking to upgrade their entire network from the core to the edge; their dated Cisco network equipment was expensive to maintain and support. Davenport Group introduced the visionary open networking capabilities of Dell's networking portfolio to Deer Creek Schools and was able to assist in upgrading their core and storage needs. Davenport Group is now working with Deer Creek on all of their edge networking requirements. The net result has been a noticeable decrease in operating expenses related to network maintenance and support.

About Deer Creek Public Schools

Deer Creek School District was founded in 1921. The district was originally comprised of 13 one-room schoolhouses which would later become the foundation of the current names of the Elementary Schools. The 13 one-room schools were Spring Creek, Union Rhodes, Rose Valley, Texas, Nebraska, Rosebud Advance, Prairie Bell, Kansas, Carpenter, McKinney, Higby, Lynch, and Cleveland.

The District is 72 square miles and includes portions of three counties, Oklahoma, Logan, and Canadian, and two cities, Oklahoma City and Edmond.

In the fall of 2016-17, Deer Creek will have 5 Elementary Schools: Deer Creek Elementary, Prairie Vale Elementary, Rose Union Elementary, Grove Valley Elementary, and Spring Creek Elementary. Deer Creek also has an Intermediate School, Middle School, and High School.

Deer Creek is known for its community centered atmosphere, excellent staff, strong parental involvement, and focus on the growth of students both academically and personally. Deer Creek is the top school district in the State of Oklahoma and is proud of the many student accomplishments that occur each year.

A rapidly-growing school district in Oklahoma, with limited funds and an outdated infrastructure, needed help. The result is a network built for the 21st century to support their growth!

The Challenge

The Director of IT and Network Administrator was forced to increase workloads as a result of networking equipment that was up to 15 years old. As with many of Davenport Group's clients, budgets were not endless, and the IT staff was asked to do more with less. The aging networking equipment support contracts were straining their limited budget, the unsupported gear was quickly becoming unstable, and the uptime of the network was at serious risk.

Along with aging equipment and budget constraints, Deer Creek also had the age-old problem of supporting all of this with a limited IT staff. Deer Creek's IT staff struggled to support the network, in conjunction with all the other IT infrastructure, all while the district continued to grow at a rate of 10-15% year over year.

The Bright Future Ahead

Davenport Group demonstrated to Deer Creek Schools that Dell's networking solution provides a tremendous value while increasing much needed stability, performance, and flexibility of the network. Davenport Group replaced Deer Creek's core network with a distributed 10Gb backbone while allowing room to grow and the ability to scale as needed. Their aggregate layer was upgraded with stackable 1Gb network equipment and Deer Creek is currently rolling out their edge layer with simple 1Gb network equipment; all with either 10Gb or 1Gb connections back to the core and aggregate. Deer Creek is now able to manage the entire network from one interface, OpenManage Network Manager, and leverage Davenport Group for continued training and support.

Deer Creek Schools was able to get the necessary upgrades all done within their limited budget. Deer Creek's budget got them much more than they thought. Rather than just upgrading their aggregate layer, Deer Creek was able to replace the core layer too, with five years of support thus realizing the value of Dell's networking equipment.