



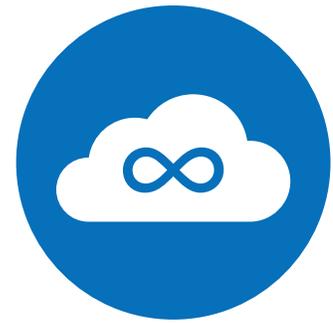
CloudReady offers this Kentucky district a simple, cost-effective option to push forward its Google implementation strategy

Woodford County Schools is a technology thought leader in the state of Kentucky. The district serves approximately 4,000 students, about 240 teachers, and another 115 staff members across seven school buildings. Over the last decade, Woodford has invested in hardware from iPads to VDI machines, and fall of 2014 marked the fourth year of a 1:1 technology initiative in the Woodford County Schools High School. The 1:1 technology strategy started with the high school grades, and has since spread to the elementary school level.

Over the past several years, a grassroots passion for Google Apps for Education has changed the district’s trajectory. It started with a single teacher who went through Google’s certified trainer program. With an internal champion and advocate for the benefits that Google offers students and educators, the district technology department opted to purchase a classroom set of Chromebooks. What started as an experimental trial evolved into a full-fledged strategy. Chromebooks have become one of the district’s devices of choice for new hardware. Every teacher and student has a Google account and teachers have adopted Google Drive as their primary storage location.

Reaching a hardware crisis point

While the preference for new hardware purchases has become clearer, the decision as to how to handle aging inventory is reaching a “crisis point” in the words of James Tuttle, District Network Administrator. Woodford has been investing in upgrades for existing hardware for years, even purchasing SSDs, new monitors, and increased memory for aging machines. Even so, the clear benefits and value afforded by faster boot times, seamless integration with Google Apps for Education, and OS performance enhancements characteristic of Chromebooks was sorely missed in the functionality of their older machines: “The hardware runs fine, but doesn’t run Windows very well,” Tuttle explained. This reality applies to various computer labs populated by machines between five and six years old, that are aging out of usefulness. Tuttle knows that the team needs to anticipate and account for the inevitable turnover of those computers, while simultaneously staying focused on the district’s 1:1 technology initiative.



WOODFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS: FAST FACTS

The challenge

An aggressive 1:1 initiative and Google Adoption plan juxtaposed to a fleet of aging computers coupled with a limited budget, drove Woodford County to seek alternative pathways to deliver the best technology options for their teachers and students.

The solution

With CloudReady, Woodford County can continue to push its Google implementation plan forward, utilizing a blended approach of new hardware purchases alongside existing machines running CloudReady.

The results

Woodford County has reclaimed the usefulness of older machines and has outlined a sustainable business plan to reach its technology goals.

Tuttle and the Woodford Technology team were looking at an estimated hardware replacement price tag of \$30,000 per lab when they discovered Neverware and the alternative pathway that CloudReady offers. Woodford opted to implement CloudReady on a fleet of their aging computers, a solution that offered the district an affordable middle-ground: the ability to push forward their commitment to Google, but at a fraction of the cost of purchasing all new hardware.

An ideal solution for existing machines

Aging Windows labs are now being converted to CloudReady, with Dell E6400s and Optiplex 755s functioning like Chromebooks. All devices are managed under Woodford's central Google Admin console, as new Chromebooks perform side-by-side with the legacy hardware now running CloudReady. For a fraction of the cost of purchasing all new machines, Woodford can now leverage Google Apps for Education without wasting funds sunk into the current install-base of machines over the last six years.

Expanding strategic options with CloudReady

The realities of restricted funding and budget limitations are all-too-common drivers in the decisions available to educators and administrators all over the country. CloudReady now offers a concrete alternative for districts to gain even greater access to the cutting-edge technology and resources that Google offers. Woodford County Schools is a perfect example of technology administrators utilizing creative, thoughtful solutions in order to better serve students and more efficiently allocate the limited funds available. The blended approach of combining new hardware purchases with repurposing existing machines translates to a higher volume of Chrome devices in the district. Woodford is systemically and strategically moving the needle of progress toward its goals.

Student enrollment:

4,000 over 8 schools

Pre-existing platforms:

-Windows 7

-Google Chromebooks