



How Computrace® by Absolute® Software Helps K12 Leaders

Thuan Nguyen, Executive Director of Information Technology, Kent School District

"As a publicly-funded district, we are required to physically touch each computer once annually as part of state regulatory compliance procedure. It is so important that we can demonstrate accountability for the funds we receive from the community. We also need to plan for and refresh 2,500 – 3,000 computers each summer. This process was incredibly tedious. Before Computrace, we would assign 10 people to sleuth out the location of all of our computers over a three month period. We literally had 10 people with barcode scanners attempting to find 12,000 computers. It was a great effort. With Computrace, we always know where our computers are. What was once a three-month process is now as simple as running a five-minute report that is more than 99% accurate. That, is accountability."

Evan Allred, Director of Information Technology, Dysart Unified School District

"Having made a major investment in new laptops, one of the options we had for keeping track of them was Computrace. It uses the Internet to help us track each computer – where it is located, who is logging in and, should one go missing, where it has been taken. We just report the missing computer to Absolute and they work with local law enforcement to find it and recover it for us. We can also inventory our computers at any time – which is an amazing feature for helping us with our budgets and appropriately allocating new computers to schools.

The need for mobile computing is here to stay in today's K-12 classrooms, and the technology for protecting and managing them in the school environment is now readily available. Computrace is proving to be great support for our laptop learning programs."

Dan Turner, Director of Information Technology, Surrey School District

"Before we started using Computrace, 10 to 15 of my colleagues would spend a month and a half – from mid-May to late-June – visiting each and every school in the district looking at all the computers to get inventory counts of hardware configurations and installed software titles. During this time, everything but emergency student and teacher IT support requests would be put on hold – and this is the most critical time of year for students trying to complete their projects or teachers preparing exams or grades. With Computrace, the manual tune-up has become a thing of the past. Each day a computer is booted up, Computrace sends any changes to the hardware and software data points. We find out exactly what each computer is running, how much hard drive space is available, whether memory cards are missing, and more.

Computrace has been a great investment for our School District and saves us money in many ways: it helps keep us onside with software compliance regulations, thus preventing us from having to pay fines, and it has enabled us to automate processes that were labor-intensive and inefficient. I would strongly recommend Computrace to any School District."

Steve Rush, Director of IT, St. Andrew's College

"It's critical to run software updates on an as-needed basis. Out of respect for our users, we initially tried a voluntary procedure: when we wanted everyone to update, we sent out an email to our 600 students and teachers and told them to please run these patches and fixes. After the first day, we saw that 92 laptops had the updates; after two days it was up to 180; after three days, double that. But it took an entire month for all 600 computers to be updated. Meanwhile, our whole network is vulnerable when even one laptop is running unprotected.

Armed with the Computrace data, we decided to change our approach and implemented a policy to automatically install the updates the next time each individual laptop started up. Again, we were able to monitor this approach and we saw that this time around, it took 2 days for every laptop to install the update, instead of a month. Being able to see the actual configuration of any machine in service makes for a great planning tool. We are extremely satisfied with this product."

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