

## IBM manageability tools make the grade with Muskogee Public Schools

With 6,400 students and a nearly one-to-one PC to student ratio, Muskogee Public Schools in Oklahoma takes pride in being able to offer learning tools to students and faculty via the Internet and special software applications.

But like many public school systems, Muskogee has to make the most out of limited resources. That is especially true for the technology department, which consists of only four technicians, including Director of Technology Ronnie Chandler.

Chandler and his team recently began to deploy over 1,200 new desktop PCs in the school system, and they needed a reliable server solution to manage the network. The answer was to deploy the IBM eServer xSeries 150 — the ideal server for network attached storage — and manage the PCs with IBM Director software, which was included with the x150 as a standard option.

IBM Director is the heart of IBM Universal Manageability, combining standard help-desk features with advanced monitoring and alert management capabilities. Using IBM Director, Chandler saves the cost of having to send technicians to schools that are up to ten miles apart. Instead, he can use IBM Director to call up remote sessions from a single management point and resolve user problems.

“Anything we can do to lower the cost of management is a benefit to us,” says Chandler. “Being able to stay in one location and upload software and manage the machines remotely saves us the cost of another person.”

Chandler is especially looking forward to using the new Software Rejuvenation functionality of IBM Director. “We have very few hardware problems,” he explains. “Most of our problems are software or user-related. So I look forward to using Software Rejuvenation to repair those problems, bring the software up to date and clarify it — all overnight while I’m gone.”

The reliability of IBM @server systems combined with the ease-of-management functionality of IBM Director and Software Rejuvenation enable Muskogee’s IT team to work smarter, not harder. As Chandler puts it, “I firmly believe that if I was not using IBM equipment, I would have to double or triple the size of my department to maintain this network.”