



LaCie 12big Rack Fibre for a Virtualized Network at Reynaertcollege

With their redundant components and failure-proof design, two LaCie 12big Rack Fibre arrays work in tandem 24 hours a day to keep data secure at Hulst's Reynaertcollege.

About Reynaertcollege



Situated close to the Belgium border and encircled by 3.5 km (2.25 mi) long fortification walls, Hulst (pop. 28,000) is a proud reminder of the Netherlands' rich medieval

past. While it remains steeped in centuries-old traditions such as the Monday market that harks back to the Middle Ages and its annual Christmas Village, Hulst is a city that embraces Twenty-first Century cutting edge technology. Perhaps this is no better exemplified than the impressive IT infrastructure at Reynaertcollege.

A Redundant Solution for an Advanced IT Infrastructure

A junior high school with 1670 students, Reynaertcollege offers dynamic, interactive classes on two neighboring campuses. As part of its modernization efforts, Reynaertcollege received financing to build a fibre optic network that stretches across both facilities. Cisco and HP Fibre Channel switches at each location offer 1Gb/s throughput for a network that includes 15 servers and 450 workstations. The school's modest IT staff of two selected VMware for the school's critical operations since virtualization offers enhanced management for complex networking demands such as printing, campus security, file sharing, anti-virus and malware protection, and terminal. To cut the risk of downtime due to hardware failure, VMware's proprietary VMDK files are stored on the LaCie 12big Rack Fibre arrays.



Each 12big Rack Fibre array is connected to HP SAN Fibre Channel Switches via their dual fibre channel host ports. Two host ports guarantee optimal performance and redundancy in case one should fail.

Perfect 12big Rack Fibre Integration

Reynaertcollege initially installed a LaCie 12big Rack Fibre due to its competitive pricing, extraordinary performance, and failsafe hardware. Integration into their network turned out to be fast and easy, especially with the 12big's StorView software. The included software empowers administrators to configure the storage array as they like, implementing RAID 5 and taking advantage of the Advanced Power Management and Snapshots for data recovery. StorView also provides detailed reports on the state of the 12big Rack Fibre disks, noting when standard drive

maintenance is required.

Without question, the school's storage solution had to support its heavy reliance upon virtualization to serve the rigorous demands of the school's office administration, campus security, and multimedia classrooms.

Selecting the 12big Rack Fibre added to the school's model of complete IT hardware redundancy. It features two power supplies, two fibre channel controllers with up to four ports, and two backup batteries. The 12big Rack Fibre also includes Enterprise Class drives with faster data seek rates, durable performance for extended use, and longer mean times before failure (MTBF) than most rack disks.



"The 12big Rack Fibre offers superior value for Reynaertcollege with its totally redundant design and seamless network integration."

A Second 12big Rack Fibre

The first 12big Rack Fibre was so successful that Reynaertcollege added the next generation 12big Rack Fibre 8 as soon as it became available! While the first unit comes with up to four 4Gb/s interfaces, LaCie's updated 12big Rack Fibre 8 now offers 8Gb/s per port. Of course, the improved performance is an added bonus for Reynaertcollege as the IT administrators complete their objective of perfect redundancy. The new 12big Rack Fibre has been installed on the second campus and acts as a mirror for the first unit. Not only is the data safe in case of external hazards (i.e. fire, flooding, etc.), but the time-consuming task of creating off-site tape backups has been all but eliminated.



Reynaertcollege runs VMware for enhanced network management. To make certain that critical operations are never interrupted, VMware's proprietary VMDK files are stored on the LaCie 12big Rack Fibre arrays.

With its impressive storage capacity, extraordinary performance, and superior reliability, the LaCie 12big Rack Fibre is the ideal solution for Reynaertcollege. Since the two IT administrators manage a network with heavy traffic, they cannot afford to lose time worrying about storage. The 12big Rack Fibre gives them perfect hardware and data redundancy while LaCie's technical support is always available to respond to any question. The LaCie Advanced Care Option also guarantees that all replacement parts are shipped as soon as a problem is reported.