

## CASE STUDY

# YUBA COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM INCREASES EFFICIENCY

Yuba County Unified School District (YCUSD) in northern California consists of 14 schools (two more are under construction) for a total of more than 6800 students. The District owns 4000 computers and 40 servers, all managed by IT Director Steve O'Toole and his team of two techs and one network specialist. It's no surprise, then, that O'Toole is very concerned with efficiency. "My driving goal in the IT department is efficiency," he explains. "Efficiency consists of choosing systems with proven reliability while saving money, and that is where open source comes in."

### FAST FACTS

**Industry:** Education

**Challenge:**

- Keep costs to a minimum

**Solution:**

- **Platform:** Red Hat Enterprise Linux 4
- **Hardware:** HP
- **Other:** Apache Web Server, MySQL, PHP

**Benefits:**

- Increased efficiency and reliability. Significant cost savings.

YCUSD is running a LAMP stack (Linux, Apache Web Server, MySQL, and PHP) for web, front-end firewalls, and filtering in the mid-tier range. With over 30 years experience in the technology industry, O'Toole knows a good thing when he sees it.

**"When you set up a server running Red Hat Enterprise Linux, it is reliable and cost efficient, and in this business, that means everything."**

"The surprising thing is when I tell my guys that I'm going to bring up a Red Hat Enterprise Linux server and run multiple domains. I tell them we are going to do all this cool stuff with web management and it will be up and running by lunch."

Their response?

"They all laugh, but by lunch we're done and never have to touch it again. Then, after two years' time, the maintenance has consisted of updating web pages," O'Toole said.

"Today, the district runs QSS financial systems on MPE and next year we'll be running it on Linux," O'Toole says. "From a budget perspective what it costs in maintenance fees on our HP 3000 mainframe, I'm going to be able to purchase a much faster HP dual quad processor server running Linux. It will improve our disaster recovery strategy by butting two systems to make us fully redundant. And after that it's savings back to the school district's general fund."

"I've known about Linux for a long time and I really admire the robustness of Red Hat Enterprise Linux and the Fedora project," O'Toole said. "The story I tell is that when you take the time and set up a server running Red Hat Enterprise Linux, it is reliable and cost efficient, and in this business, that means everything."