



Education

# Elevating service for students and staff

Xuzhou Vocational Technology Academy  
of Finance & Economics

Vocational school XVTA chose a hyper-converged infrastructure from Lenovo and VMware to keep critical systems running at their best while simplifying management and supercharging data availability.

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1

## **Who is XVTA?**

Xuzhou Vocational Technology Academy of Finance & Economics (XVTA) is a full-time higher vocational school, sponsored by the Jiangsu Provincial Department of Finance. Founded in 1964, XVTA operates three major training centers, focused on finance, commerce, and information technology. It supports a student body of more than 7,000 learners and has an important influence in Jiangsu Province and the wider Huaihai Economic Zone.

2

## The challenge

For years, XVTA has operated a comprehensive digital campus and infrastructure platform to support both academic and administrative work across the institution. Thousands of students, teachers, and staff rely on these platforms every day, making it vital for the school's IT team to maintain high levels of performance and availability for the underlying infrastructure.

At the same time, with the development of advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence and big data, the school is cultivating students' compound skills and broadening their appeal to potential future employers through the cross-integration of information technology with traditional disciplines such as financial technology applications, and big data and analytics. This was putting higher demands on the IT infrastructure, so XVTA decided to look for a new solution to support the long-term needs of core business systems.



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“We had several goals for the new infrastructure. We were looking for a significant performance improvement, to accommodate continuously rising demand from our users, and a solution that was easy to operate and maintain. We also wanted to take the opportunity to strengthen data availability and protection by introducing a more comprehensive backup and recovery platform.”

**Zhu Jianwei**

Deputy Director of IT Management Center, XVTA

# Top-class hyperconverged infrastructure

After evaluating different architecture configurations from several providers, XVTA opted for a hyperconverged infrastructure (HCI) platform from Lenovo and VMware. Working with a team from Lenovo, the school deployed five Lenovo ThinkAgile VX7530 Appliances, built on high-performing Lenovo ThinkSystem SR650 V2 servers leveraging VMware vSAN™ to deliver compute, storage, and management in a tightly integrated software stack.

In parallel, XVTA repurposed a number of its older server and storage systems to serve as a new backup and recovery platform. It adopted Veeam Backup & Replication to provide robust protection and recovery for its entire data layer.

## Hardware

Lenovo ThinkAgile VX7530 Appliances  
Lenovo ThinkSystem SR650 V2 servers

## Software

Lenovo Software Defined Infrastructure  
Management Platform  
VMware vSAN™  
VMware vSphere®  
Veeam Backup & Replication Enterprise Plus

For management, the school makes use of the Lenovo Software Defined Infrastructure (SDI) Management Platform. This provides a single interface for IT administrators to centralize management of Lenovo ThinkAgile VX systems, VMware vSAN, VMware vSphere® virtual machines (VMs), and Veeam software.

**“Lenovo’s SDI Management Platform makes it easy for us to manage the entire HCI environment. We can easily understand the operational status of different systems and gain a clear view of all data from a single screen. It’s saving us a lot of time and effort in day-to-day operation and maintenance.”**

Deputy Director of IT Management Center, XVTA

**Zhu Jianwei**

3

## Results

With its new HCI platform, powered by Lenovo hardware and VMware software, XVTA has established robust yet flexible foundations to support its operations far into the future. With a software-defined approach to hyperconvergence, the school can orchestrate IT resources in a much more agile and efficient way. The underlying Lenovo ThinkSystem SR650 V2 servers have delivered a major boost in performance, while highly elastic scalability means IT can easily keep pace with changing demands.

With HCI unifying traditional three-tier compute, storage, and networking in one platform, it's much more straightforward for IT teams to deploy, provision, and scale data center resources. What's more, XVTA can manage its entire infrastructure from a single, integrated point of control with Lenovo SDI Management Platform—saving time, expense, and effort.



Minutes-to-seconds improvement in VM start-up times



Simplifies infrastructure management



Safeguards against data loss and operational disruption

Finally, through its new backup and DR environment, XVTA has optimized data availability and business continuity. Even if the worst happens, the school can rest assured that key systems and data will remain readily available, ensuring that staff and students have access to the resources they need to keep learning on track.



**“The Lenovo-VMware HCI platform has been in operation for a few months now, and we are very satisfied with the results. Performance has taken a great leap forward and we now enjoy very fast response times. For example, VM start-up, which previously took nearly a minute, now completes in less than 10 seconds.”**

**Zhu Jianwei**

Deputy Director of IT Management Center, XVTA



# Why **Lenovo**?

For XVTA, the power of the Lenovo-VMware HCI platform far surpassed anything that competing providers could offer. The school was also won over by the Lenovo hardware's seamless compatibility with VMware's HCI software, providing it with a flexible, proven solution for managing a variety of workloads.

Zhu Jianwei comments: "Lenovo is a name that we can trust for strong product quality. We have enjoyed an equally positive experience in working with the Lenovo team. They have been very professional and easy to communicate with, taking the time to hear our questions and finding solutions in a quick, effective way."



# How do you support the smooth running of academic services?

Upgrading to a modern HCI solution  
with Lenovo and VMware.

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