

Education

# Supporting superior educational experiences

ECNU Xiping Bilingual School

With Lenovo ThinkAgile VX Series solutions, powered by VMware virtualization, Xiping Bilingual School is ready to deliver flexible and dependable digital services to its first-ever cohort of students and staff.



Lenovo

1

## Who is ECNU Xiping Bilingual School?

ECNU Xiping Bilingual School is a K12 school founded by Xiamen Hengxing Group in cooperation with East China Normal University. Located in the center of Xiamen Island, the 15-year boarding school opened its doors in September 2022. In its inaugural year, Xiping Bilingual School will welcome 1,200 students and 200 teachers, with plans to expand to 4,000 students and 500 teachers in the near future.

Relying on the advanced educational concepts and teaching resources of East China Normal University, the school will offer advanced international integrated courses, in both Chinese and English, to bring high-quality educational choices to students in Xiamen.



华佗希平双语学校  
ECNU XIPING BILINGUAL SCHOOL

## 2

# The Challenge

Xiping Bilingual School aims to provide an innovative learning environment based on the principles of artificial intelligence (AI), smart campus, and big data. To support this mission, the school has invested heavily in smart facilities and digital services for learners, teachers, and administrative staff. These range from smart classroom applications and lighting systems to financial management and catering management platforms.

As a brand-new educational institution, Xiping Bilingual School is expanding its digital services and adding new applications all the time. This made flexibility and scalability top priorities when it came to selecting an underlying infrastructure platform. In addition, with a small IT team of just four people, it was equally crucial for the school to find a platform that was easy to operate and manage.



**“As our school has just been established, there’s a great deal of change that we have to keep up with. There are many new applications and requirements to support, and growing amounts of data to process and store. We needed a platform that could deliver strong performance, flexibility, and reliability through it all.”**

**Wei Shida**

IT Manager, Xiamen Hengxing Group

# Choosing HCI for scale, stability, and simplicity

Xiping Bilingual School evaluated a range of architecture configurations and determined that a hyperconverged infrastructure (HCI) was the optimal choice for its requirements. After reviewing offerings from several leading hardware providers, the school chose to deploy a VMware vSAN-based HCI from Lenovo.

To help guarantee high availability and business continuity, Xiping Bilingual School opted for a two-cluster architecture. The entire design provides the school with application-level fault tolerance and minimizes the impact of downtime or hardware failure on operations.

## Hardware

Lenovo ThinkAgile VX7530  
Lenovo ThinkSystem SR650  
Lenovo ThinkSystem DE4000H

## Software

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

## Services

Lenovo Professional Services

For its primary cluster, the institution deployed eight Lenovo ThinkAgile VX7530 appliances. Each node supports disk groups with three independent fault domains. The secondary cluster, which is used as a backup environment, includes one Lenovo ThinkSystem SR650 server and Lenovo ThinkSystem DE4000H hybrid storage.

Veeam Backup & Replication provides centralized backup, recovery, and data management for all workloads. The school's IT team also makes use of Lenovo Software Defined Infrastructure (SDI) Management Platform to simplify and automate deployment, management, and maintenance tasks across both clusters. The Lenovo SDI Management Platform enables the IT team to manage its Veeam Backup & Replication software and monitor the status of the ThinkAgile VX HCI and Veeam backups, all from a single point of control.



**“From day one, Lenovo has demonstrated that they’re not just interested in selling us a product; they’re invested in matching us with solutions that deliver on our actual demands. We can come to our Lenovo team with specific requirements, such as the systems we want to support and what applications we plan to expand in the future, and they will put together a tailored solution that aligns with our needs and budget.”**

**Wei Shida**

IT Manager, Xiamen Hengxing Group

# 3

## Results

With a powerful and reliable HCI platform from Lenovo and VMware underpinning essential learning and business systems, Xiping Bilingual School expects to make a strong first impression with the first cohort of students and teachers with a safe, environmentally friendly, and energy-efficient smart campus environment.

The ThinkAgile VX Series is optimized for a wide range of workloads, and makes it easy for the school to scale performance and capacity. Likewise, the two-cluster architecture builds additional redundancy into the infrastructure, keeping Xiping Bilingual School protected from disruption.



Behind the scenes, the IT team enjoys convenient management and maintenance. It's quick and easy to schedule and allocate resources in line with the school's evolving requirements. And with the Lenovo SDI Management Platform able to support concurrent, highly automated management of both computing clusters as well as Veeam Backup & Replication, the IT team spends less time on routine administration, so it can focus on supporting the school's strategic needs. For example, in providing STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics) and AI classes, as well as technology exhibition areas. By providing students with a strong scientific and technological education environment, the school aims to cultivate students' critical-thinking and problem-solving skills.

- ✓ Easy for a lean IT team to manage
- ✓ Flexibility to support fast-changing requirements
- ✓ High availability for mission-critical systems
- ✓ Ready for growth with elastic scalability





“

“The Lenovo and VMware HCI platform is a great fit for us: we’ve gained a solution that’s highly reliable, flexible and powerful, while being very easy to use and maintain. As our school continues to welcome new learners and teachers, we are confident about meeting their changing needs with our powerful all-in-one infrastructure.”

**Wei Shida**

IT Manager, Xiamen Hengxing Group



# Why Lenovo?

Lenovo fought off fierce competition from multiple hardware providers to emerge as Xiping Bilingual School's winning choice. The school was ultimately won over by the tight integration between Lenovo's hardware and software and VMware virtualization technology.

As Wei Shida recalls: "It was a very close race, but after comparing all the options, we had to give priority to Lenovo's offering. Not only did Lenovo offer very competitive pricing; we also appreciated the close integration of software and hardware components in their HCI platform, which gave us more simplicity and flexibility."

# How do you ensure that critical school systems run smoothly ?

Delivering digital services that students and staff rely on, supported by Lenovo.

[Explore Lenovo Servers](#)