

The article below appeared in the Nov/Dec 2007 edition of MASBO Matters, the monthly newsletter of the Massachusetts Association of School Business Officials. It addresses a partial solution to the dilemma faced by virtually every school system.

That is,

*"... in this era of inadequate budgets, how and where do school administrators find financial resources to improve the educational services provided to their students?"*

IT administrator in schools, colleges, universities, and teaching hospitals must:

- Reduce soaring energy costs and wasted power
- Extend the useful life of teaching tools such as PCs whenever possible
- Manage PCs and other IT assets spread across buildings, campuses, and geographies
- Expand access to IT resources essential to students, teachers, and administrators

... all with inadequate and shrinking budgets.

## Power Management ... a path to reduced expenses

Power costs continue to rise, yet in the typical school, PCs remain on, over night ... and over long weekends. Electricity and budget dollars are wasted. Not only does the school's budget pay for the wasted energy, it also pays to cool the building heated by the systems.

Administrators can hope that a custodian or security guard might shut off PCs and hope they don't inadvertently see or access confidential information or visit unauthorized sites.

Wouldn't it be great if these and other problems disappeared ... AND service levels soared? **They can...**

SyAM Software's power management capabilities enable you to proactively manage all your IT assets REMOTELY ... while automating power on/off settings. Energy is saved; Problems are prevented; ROI is fast...

**Calculate** Your Potential Budget Savings and Energy Savings at [www.syamsoftware.com/edu](http://www.syamsoftware.com/edu).

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## MASBO MATTERS



## Put Money Back In Your Budget Through Automated Computer Power Management

In today's economic environment, most public sector organizations are faced with increasingly tight operating and capital budgets. This carries an ominous message for schools - cut back spending but stay within budget. These budget constraints make it difficult for administrators and financial managers to address capital replacement needs and still improve the learning environment for students, teachers and staff.

For most institutions, this means searching for ways to cut costs and save money in areas that don't affect a school's primary role: educating students. Many schools can unearth savings by taking advantage of technological advancements, more efficient equipment and supplies, and smarter ways of managing their resources.

One such resource is electrical energy usage. The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that schools could save \$1.5 billion in energy costs by making better energy choices. Altering behavior — turning off lights in unoccupied areas and

shutting down unused computers — can save money. It is a proven fact that server, desktop, and notebook PC's wastefully consume energy and money when powered up during off-business hours. A typical school district with a 1,000 PC's can save over \$50,000 per year by automating its computer power management.

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Savings are realized based upon the number of systems being shutdown automatically by the management software at set times, thus saving the energy that would have been consumed had the PC remained on overnight. Savings vary based upon number of systems, hours used, power usage, cost for electricity and the amount of systems that are currently manually shutdown by their users.

*(Continued on page 9)*

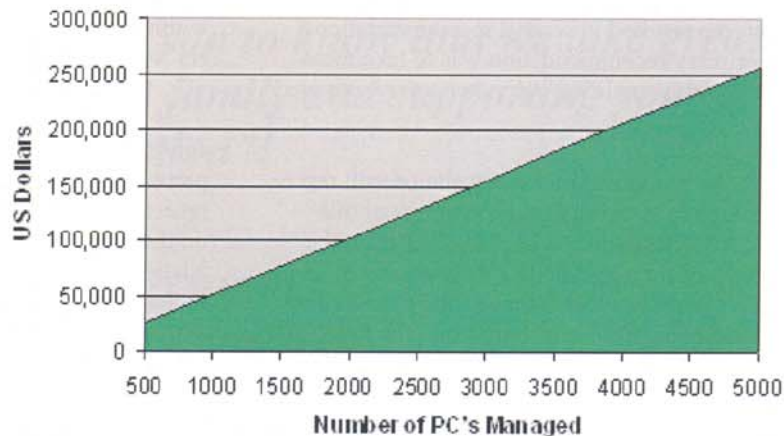


# Put Money Back In Your Budget Continued

## Annual Savings from Implementing Computer Controlled Power Management

### Assumptions:

- 40 Weeks per year
- 10 Hours use per weekday
- 0 Hours use per weekend
- 80w per PC
- Rate of \$0.17c kWh
- 20% of systems manually shutdown



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The chart on page 9 shows savings in line with the number of PC's being managed within the school district.

In fact, savings are immediate and so substantial that many utilities are now offering significant rebates, grants, loans and/or tax incentives (based on state/territory) for reduced energy usage. However, to take advantage of these rebates, schools typically have to cut energy consumption by a defined percentage over the previous year, often as much as 20% or more. Herein lies the challenge. How do you implement a solution that can cut energy costs without disrupting or overburdening your IT staff and the important role they play?

There are a couple of simple solutions to the problem:

- Ask staff and students to turn their PC's off at the end of the day. While this suggestion sounds good it does have draw backs as most people forget. Managing this process manually also creates issues for the IT staff as they have no control over a PC being on or off when implementing software updates.
- Implement an IT Asset Management technology that provides power management, which reduces energy costs by automatically shutting down PC's according to a centrally controlled schedule. This type of software technology is typically easy-to-use, allows your IT staff to measure, manage, and reduce your computers energy consumption, saving money, lowering your total cost of ownership and improving service levels to staff and students. Additionally, when considering this type of technology, you should review its management capabilities for the IT staff to utilize during the school day to ensure a positive classroom experience.

shutdown-power of a specific PC Group, schools can increase system availability, improve accountability, maximize system resource utilization, meet service level agreements, and reduce total cost of ownership of PC's across a distributed environment. Additionally, the risk of a security breach through systems left on after hours is reduced.

Realizing the excellent value proposition and documentable savings that Computer Control technology provides, utilities and energy efficiency organizations across the United States and Canada have adopted it for inclusion in incentive and rebate programs. Additionally, in some instances, schools use performance contracting to partner with energy service companies. The company pays the initial cost of the software, and the school pays for the technology with the savings generated.

Schools can implement an Automated Power Management control solution very simply and with minimal resources. Savings are realized from day 1, putting substantial dollars back into their budgets while money previously allocated to high electricity bills is re-directed towards other items critical for continuity in school operations and quality student services.

Taking into account its simplicity and immediate effectiveness to achieve substantial savings, Business Managers and IT Managers alike owe it to their districts to evaluate this technology by reviewing the cost savings opportunity, increased manageability and determining for themselves the actual savings achievable within their own districts.

*This article was submitted by Nick Thickins, the CEO and founder of SyAM Software, based in Nashua, NH. More information can be found at [www.syamssoftware.com/edu](http://www.syamssoftware.com/edu) or [nick.thickins@syamssoftware.com](mailto:nick.thickins@syamssoftware.com)*

By creating and enforcing power policies for the automated