

2014 Technology Innovation Showcase

GeorgiaVIEW Brightspace – Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia

Complexity of the Problem

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia (USG) faced a daunting business problem: transforming higher education through an innovative, integrated learning platform to lower costs, maintain quality and provide greater access to under-represented segments of society. The USG wanted a single system so all students, regardless of which educational institution they attended, could benefit from the same platform. The system should:

- Take advantage of new technologies to realize economies of scale
- Provide the lowest possible price and support affordability so that cost was not a barrier to participation by the USG's educational institutions
- Meet the needs of current students and support the Governor's goal to add 100,000 students by 2020
- Increase college completion rates dramatically by providing modern tools for student engagement and accessibility from mobile platforms so students could learn anywhere and anytime

Creativity of the Solution

The solution is GeorgiaVIEW Brightspace, innovative Software as a Service (SaaS). It provides a central location for students at 28 of the USG's public, higher-education institutions to access all of their courses and associated educational materials. It uses the USG's PeachNet private cloud and offers more than 160,000 courses to more than 310,000 students, making it the largest private-cloud deployment of the Brightspace platform in the world.

GeorgiaVIEW Brightspace includes user and technical support, a community of practice for institutional administrators, extensive training opportunities for faculty and administrators, integration with the USG's student information system, external authentication, and more than 50 third-party software integrations. Each educational institution maintains its own branding and has extensive capabilities to optimize its student and faculty interface and experience. The ability to realize substantially lower and predictable costs through private-cloud services while maintaining institutional control is a key component of the USG's technology solution.

In addition, the USG's INGRESS middleware integrates GeorgiaVIEW Brightspace with the USG'S Banner student information system, thereby enabling multi-institutional registration. The combination of GeorgiaVIEW Brightspace and the award-winning INGRESS system is unique to higher education.

Business Results

GeorgiaVIEW Brightspace is used heavily by students and faculty both inside and outside the classroom. It experiences more than 250,000 user logins and 50.67 million hits daily, and utilization continues growing. Faculty have created more than 42 terabytes of educational content that can be accessed with mobile devices using Android, iOS and Windows operating systems.

By hosting GeorgiaVIEW Brightspace in its private cloud, the USG is saving more than \$7.5 million compared to public clouding hosting. In addition, the USG has achieved a cost savings of \$11 million for each add-on service that's purchased for the system. System-wide analytics, content portability, systems that predict student success on a course level, state MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) and multi-agency support initiatives are being built upon the strategically implemented GeorgiaVIEW Brightspace.