6 VIRTUAL DESKTOP USE CASES FOR COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES
1. Computer Labs are Dying

Most students today have their own laptops, but certain classes require applications that are not available or feasible to load onto every student computer. The licensing fees and compatibility issues alone are enough to give a university IT team a migraine.

This leaves higher education institutes with a frustrating challenge. Computer labs are used less frequently and take up valuable campus space, but are still necessary for students to access specialized applications.

The situation is equally frustrating for students. Typically used to working whenever from wherever (via their laptop), students have to find time to go to the computer lab and contend with other students for the same finite resources. The issue is becoming even more pressing as remote learning continues to gain traction – students might not have access to a traditional lab at all.

*Dizzion virtual desktops and application delivery allow IT teams to easily deliver required applications to select students using their personally owned devices. IT retains control of licenses, access and updates but can move away from traditional computer labs.*
2. Supporting Field Work & Remote Students

Some students are harder to support because they’re simply not on campus.

Between field work intensive majors and the increasing popularity of online and remote learning, IT teams are faced with the challenge of ensuring that all students—regardless of location—have access to the school applications they need. This can be particularly difficult with heavy apps that a student’s personal device may not have the power to run.

Schools that aren’t able to support these new student expectations could find themselves losing enrollment.

Because individual applications and full desktops can be delivered from the cloud to any internet-enabled device, anywhere, students can access the resources they need for class work wherever they are (as long as there’s an internet connection). The power of the endpoint doesn’t matter since resources are tied to the virtual desktops.
3. Application Compatibility

While students and faculty increasingly using personal devices has taken some of the hardware pressure off of schools, it has also created a compatibility headache for IT.

When IT controlled the endpoints that faculty and students used to access applications, they got to control which apps were available and address compatibility before a purchasing decision was ever made. Now, that endpoint control is taken out of the school’s hands, but users still expect applications to perform seamlessly regardless of their chosen endpoint. Compatibility issues can lead to frustrated students and faculty, missed classwork and increased support desk help tickets.

With virtual desktops and virtualized application delivery, the make, model and operating system of the endpoint doesn’t matter. When students and faculty log onto their virtual environment, they receive a consistent experience without compatibility issues. This allows schools to support Windows only apps even if students are using Macs.
4. Scaling with Semesters & Students

Colleges and universities don’t experience the same level of demand year-round. Need changes based on semester and student enrollment numbers.

Because the number of students, faculty and staff changes from year to year and changes dramatically during the year itself (i.e. Summer break), schools that pay for on-premise virtual desktop infrastructure and computer lab hardware are leaving many resources largely underutilized.

If demand spikes suddenly (i.e. a larger incoming class), IT staff have to scramble to install additional infrastructure. This can be a costly and complex undertaking that may have little return on investment in the future if demand normalizes or shrinks overall.

Dizzion makes scaling with need easy. No more underutilized servers, we take care of it all for you — only pay for what you need at any given time. If you need more virtual desktops because enrollment spiked, simply let us know. When the summer hits and those desktops are largely unused, we’ll scale them back down so you’re not paying for unused environments.
5. Easier IT Management

Small IT teams often have a lot to cover on college campuses, making keeping up with maintaining hardware and updating software challenging.

Campuses can be massive places, with hardware spread across multiple buildings. Add the number of users educational IT staff need to support plus the possibility of having more than one campus and daily IT tasks become a major challenge. The longer it takes for IT to update or patch operating systems and software, the longer the school’s network is left at risk.

Overall, little time is left for more innovative projects.

Dizzion is a fully managed desktop as a service (DaaS) provider that offers 24x7x365 support. We help with planning, implementation and on-going maintenance, giving in-house IT teams breathing room to focus on more important matters.

The Dizzion Control Center offers an easy-to-use, centralized management, monitoring and insights portal that makes it simple for IT teams of any size to control their virtual desktop and app delivery environments. Changes made to virtual desktop Golden Images (including updating security and controls or patching applications) are pushed to all virtual desktops without the need to manually touch every device on campus.
6. Cost Effective Hardware Management

Budgets are tight, but hardware and infrastructure are expensive — and need to be maintained and replaced.

Education budgets are notoriously tight, but hardware such as computer lab PCs and infrastructure like servers need to be installed, maintained and routinely replaced. Not to mention the utility and energy costs associated with running it all.

For schools looking for ways to tighten IT spending, virtualization and adopting cloud solutions is an excellent way to reduce in these cost-sucking areas while also making IT management easier.

Dizzion’s desktop as a service (DaaS) model means that we manage and maintain the infrastructure for you. Our custom built infrastructure is designed specifically to support high performance desktop virtualization.

Adopting virtual desktops also allows schools to replace costly PCs with energy-efficient and affordable thin client solutions. This option prolongs the lifespan of endpoint devices and reduces utility costs (Dizzion’s thin client solution uses up to 60% less energy than a traditional desktop).
Learn more about how Dizzion works for schools.
ABOUT DIZZION

Established in 2011, Dizzion, Inc. is a global provider of end-user computing services, including cloud-delivered Desktops as a Service (DaaS), paired with complementary offerings like secure endpoints, application delivery and storage. The company is delivering the next generation of virtual desktop solutions to meet the demands of a remote global workforce in industries with stringent security and compliance needs, including business process outsourcing, financial services, healthcare and insurance. Dizzion's mission is to enable users to securely access applications and data from any device, anywhere increasing mobility and productivity.

To learn more about Dizzion, visit www.dizzion.com.

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