COLLABORATION

MOVING TO THE CLOUD
Enterprise Application Supports Solano Community College’s Need for Software-Defined AV over IP

By SCN Staff
Solano Community College delivers education programs for approximately 13,000 students. The college is known for offering flexible scheduling which is designed for students’ convenience. It provides day, evening, and Saturday classes, held on- and off-campus, via the internet, television, home study and travel study.

The CIO, Roger Clague, and his director of IT, James “Kimo” Callan, recognized that the AV technology on campus was outdated. Their vision included leveraging their existing IT infrastructure to take advantage of the cloud. They envisioned supplying a learning experience through one user-interface delivered to any device, where that device can be a source projected onto a screen for sharing over a standard IT network. Their long-term vision is to be recognized as a top technology college district in the state of California.

Clague’s view is that AV and IT are so entrenched in the delivery of education that they need to be managed by the same organization and be student centric first and foremost. Clague was looking for an enterprise solution that included the fundamentals he expects in any IT infrastructure: a solution that provided an open environment to include AV, academic, and network technologies and wasn’t tied to any manufacturer. It needed to be affordable and scalable to ensure ubiquitous coverage. Classroom learning technology used to be “set and forget;” the new system had to be flexible to adapt and experiment with future technology. It needed to support BYOD to promote 21st century active learning.

Solano Community College selected Utelogy’s enterprise application because it supported the college’s vision to deploy software-defined AV over IP. Utelogy is installed in the college’s data center on a virtual server, which allows them to control, monitor, and remotely support smart classrooms, boardrooms, and conference facilities across all of its campuses. The intent was to increase efficiency and manage classroom technology from a centralized application rather than each classroom independently.

Solano is moving to the cloud for public meeting recording, lecture-capture recording, video, and faculty content—much of which is in the cloud. And Utelogy integrates all of it over a single user interface.

Utelogy’s platform integrates with any open-AV solution, especially layer 3 routable solutions from various manufacturers. The Utelogy enterprise solution also looks and feels like the IT enterprise solutions they use today.

The initial pilot program was so successful it was expanded to include the new Board of Trustees Room and other conference rooms. Following the pilot, the college saw how Utelogy enabled the scalability and flexibility they needed to support delivering AV over IP across their campus. They upgraded their license to provide service throughout the multi-campus district to 200 classrooms and all conference facilities.

PROACTIVE NETWORK MANAGEMENT
The Utelogy enterprise application has an optional monitoring system that gives the organization visibility to rooms, equipment, software, issues, performance, and usage. These features allow for proactive management of classrooms to ensure the technology is ready for each class. “In terms of staff, we’re always being asked to do more with a smaller workforce and Utelogy gives us the scalability and flexibility to do that,” said Kimo.

FUTURE-PROOF AND FLEXIBILITY
The initial deployment in the Board of Trustees room resulted
In a perfect marriage, there is no better half

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in a $40,000 savings of acquisition cost. Cailan said, “We see how deployment of the Uteology platform will save us even more money in the long haul. We’re going to have a variety of wishes: for example, history has different needs than bio-chemistry, and now we don’t have to design for that. We’ve got the flexibility to be able to deal with it.”

“With technology, you need to be able to experiment efficiently to be effective,” said Clague. “With a software-based open standards system, it allows us to experiment a lot more. If I have to spend $20,000 a room and then I find out it doesn’t work, my future is rather limited.”

OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES AND EASE OF USE
Historically, the college has offered video interviews for executive hiring procedures. In the past, every hour of video conferencing required three hours of technician time to support the process. “With the Uteology system, that need has been reduced, at worst, to 15 minutes of support time. That’s a significant savings for us,” Clague said. “We’re also finding higher levels of acceptance of the classroom technology because of its ease of use.”

DELIVERING THE GLOBAL CLASSROOM
Solano Community College’s mission is to enable the concept of the “global classroom,” where every student can log on anytime, anywhere, to attend class. The Uteology enterprise platform integrates more than just AV; it’s the key piece of the network management system that integrates voice, video, lecture capture, distance learning, and other academic technologies.

RETHINKING THE WORK ENVIRONMENT
ClickShare Facilitates Collaboration at Innovation Hub

By SCN Staff
NeueHouse is a radically new kind of office based in New York City: a series of spaces, experiences, and amenities especially suited to ambitious innovators. A private membership work collective intended for both “solopreneurs” and those leading teams of up to 10 people, NeueHouse is a complete rethinking of the ideal working environment for today’s creators in fields such as film, design, fashion, publishing, the arts, and tech. It emphasizes flexibility over liability in its innovative office space model, providing members with 50,000 square feet of carefully integrated work and social space to deploy as needed depending on their personal work style, agenda, and project needs.

Superior technology is a top priority at NeueHouse, which uses terms like “intuitive,” “elegant,” and “always on” to describe the high standards they demand of business tools. So when it came to sourcing a presentation and collaboration solution for its meeting rooms, they chose Barco ClickShare. Offering ease of use, high reliability, and versatility, ClickShare enables professionals to easily share ideas and information in an informal setting.

Having a common standard that works all throughout the building—in its conference rooms, huddle spaces, and even in its theater and television studio—is essential to NeueHouse’s open and supportive environment, and ClickShare provides that universal collaboration experience.

“At NeueHouse, central to our mission is the ability to offer members the latest, high-performance technologies designed to empower collaboration,” said Greg Harper, chief technology officer of NeueHouse and CEO and founder of his own company, Harpervision Associates. “ClickShare is the perfect solution because it fits within our totally wireless environment to enable ubiquitous knowledge sharing. Since we have multiple members with different types of computing devices, we needed something that could work for everyone, everywhere. ClickShare allows people to participate in a meeting with any device, ala the BYOB trend. And, thanks to the new AirPlay capability, users can enjoy full iOS mirroring of their iPad, iPhone, and other Apple products, in addition to connectivity with PCs and Android devices.”