Ross Education Selects Cloud-based Network and Security Solution from US Signal

Sites/Locations
40 sites throughout the Midwest: Alabama, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Tennessee and West Virginia

Applications Protected
Cloud-based student and teacher access portal and email: CampusVue Student Information System, Google G Suite

VM Environment
VMware

E X E C U T I V E O V E R V I E W

Ross Education wanted to upgrade its legacy IT network. The company felt the time was right to embrace a centralized, cloud-based approach that delivered mission critical applications for teachers and students across its 40 Midwest locations. Ross adopted US Signal's enterprise-grade cloud-based solution, which also provides a centrally controlled firewall and security management capabilities. In doing so, Ross has been able to reduce the time taken by its IT team to manage and maintain physical on-campus servers, centralize bandwidth provisioning and refocus team resources on core business objectives. US Signal met Ross' brief at a competitive price point and with improved levels of customer service when compared to the outgoing IT service provider.

Challenges

+ Limited IT resources made it difficult to manage and maintain physical servers at 40 locations

+ Needed to strengthen and centralize IT network security to protect teachers and students at each campus

+ Find a cost-effective and efficient way to maintain always-on Internet connectivity for all campuses and locations even at peak use times

Solution

+ Cloud-based infrastructure-as-a-service and a fully meshed network to power multiple campuses and provide private data backup transport capabilities for 65 virtual servers and 4,500+ PCs. Includes two vCloud geo-diverse instances and a cloud-based managed firewall as well as security and network monitoring software

+ US Signal's Dedicated Internet Access (DIA) to deliver always-on secure connectivity over the company's protected fiber network

US SIGNAL RESULTS

Significant Time Savings

Cloud-based infrastructure-as-a-service eliminates time-intensive on-campus support for physical servers. Ross' IT team can now focus on core business operations instead of traveling between sites to carry out maintenance.

Improved Security

Cloud-based firewall protects all campuses from a central location and enables fast updates and continuous remedial action to address the most recent security threats.

Future Proof Web Access

Dependable Internet connection that can scale in line with business and future web usage requirements.

"US Signal is competitively priced and has an exceptional reputation in the industry. Their network reliability, cloud infrastructure uptime and reliability are second to none while their staff are easy to work with, responsive and flexible. Simply put, US Signal just gets the job done so my team can focus on the business."

- Greg Brenner, CIO, Ross Education

For over four decades, Ross Education has offered healthcare training programs in some of the sector's fastest growing fields. With 40 sites throughout the Midwest, the company depends on a robust IT network to connect each location to central headquarters. Ross must also ensure that its network can deliver round-the-clock access for student and teacher applications and data at each campus.

Ross wanted to reduce the number of physical on-site servers and the associated maintenance they required in order to keep operations within its lean IT team at their most efficient. Ross also needed to boost on-campus Internet connectivity speeds and ramp up network security to protect against future cyberthreats. The company knew each of these requirements were key to delivering high quality medical education and continuing to grow the business for the future.

Ross' contract with its existing IT services provider was due for renewal, and the company was keen to upgrade to a more agile network solution with greater reliability and stronger customer support. For this reason, the Ross' IT team approached US Signal.

US Signal recommended migrating to its enterprise-grade cloud-based IT infrastructure and unifying the previously disparate campus networks. This would enable Ross to centrally control critical applications and services without the need for as many physical on-campus servers. It would also enable Ross to deliver the kind of Internet speeds and bandwidth expected by students and teachers alike at a modern center for educational excellence.

US Signal's offering came with additional benefits that were critical to Ross' IT team. US Signal provides strong cloud-based network security with log management and firewalls, both of which are powered by the company's wholly-owned PCI and HIPPA compliant fiber network. Keen for easier in-person access to support staff than they had experienced with their previous IT services provider, Ross was also delighted to discover that US Signal is located in Michigan, where almost half of the organization's campuses are situated. This makes it quick and easy for Ross to get a US Signal team member on site, if the need arises.

"US Signal is competitively priced and has an exceptional reputation in the industry. Their network reliability is second to none while their staff are easy to work with, responsive and flexible. Simply put, US Signal just gets the job done," said Greg Brenner, CIO, Ross Education.

Today, US Signal provides a consistently strong network footprint at each campus location at an extremely cost-effective price point. Ross is also pleased with the fact that US Signal's technology is supremely agile and future proof with network and bandwidth redundancy available to scale with the business as it grows or as new cloud-based technology and education sector applications come online.

Ross and US Signal continue to evolve their close working partnership, which has now been in place for over a decade. Planning is in place for future IT support and innovation as Ross carries on with its mission to provide the highest quality education to motivated individuals seeking an exciting, fulfilling career in the healthcare industry.

ABOUT US SIGNAL

US Signal is a leading data center services provider, offering secure, reliable network, cloud hosting, colocation, data protection, and disaster recovery services — all powered by its expansive, robust fiber network. US Signal also helps customers optimize their IT resources through the provision of managed services and professional services. **ussignal.com**

ABOUT ROSS EDUCATION

Since the first Ross Medical Education Center campus opened in 1976, Ross has been providing quality healthcare education to students across the Midwest and Southern United States. Today, Ross offers a variety of healthcare training programs including medical assistant, medical insurance billing and office administration. At several campus locations, the company also offers dental assistant, pharmacy technician, and veterinary assistant. All Ross Medical Education Center and Ross College campuses are accredited by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools. **rosseducation.edu**