UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

University of Connecticut moves towards Azure Virtual Desktop (AVD) to keep class in session.

OVERVIEW

The University of Connecticut (UCONN) is a major university located in Storrs, Connecticut. With over 9,469 staff members and 19,133 students, UCONN's mission is to create and disseminate knowledge by means of scholarly and creative achievements, graduate and professional education, and outreach.

With the increase in users working remotely sparked by the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic, demand for a virtualized desktop infrastructure (VDI) has hit record numbers. UCONN realized the need to act fast and deploy a VDI as an alternative method of traditional desktop infrastructures to support their students and staff with remote learning. UCONN sought to leverage Microsoft's Azure Virtual Desktop (AVD) and its features to provide virtual infrastructure for critical learning applications in a short period of time.

PROJECT GOALS

1 Better support students and staff with remote learning through Azure Virtual Desktop.

2 Provide advanced security and reduce risk of hardware being lost, tampered with, or stolen.

3 Modernize UCONN's IT environment and reduce costs on data center spending.

ORGANIZATION

University of Connecticut

Website:
https://uconn.edu/

Location:
Mansfield, CT

Industry:
Higher Education

Implementation:
Azure Virtual Desktop (AVD)

Size:
- 19,133+ students
- 9,469+ employees

forsyte

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CHALLENGE

UCONN started its search by analyzing different Microsoft partners to guide their IT team to achieve end goals with a virtualized desktop infrastructure (VDI). It was UCONN's top priority to obtain a secure and flexible infrastructure for their students and staff to be able to work remotely, and Forsyte having completed projects similar to this one proved to be the right fit for the job.

Forsyte kicked off the project with UCONN by conducting remote discovery and envisioning sessions designed to fully uncover granular business requirements, gather information around current and anticipated needs, as well as discuss the various configuration and deployment options available. Forsyte configured Active Directory and Azure Active Directory to support the selected VDI, Azure Virtual Desktop (AVD), and configured AVD to utilize FSLogix.

SOLUTION

UCONN is now able to leverage Microsoft Azure Virtual Desktop to provide a pathway to modernize its environment and reduce costs on data center spending. As a result, UCONN provides a modern and innovative platform for its students and faculty, while bringing relief to the IT team with reduced routine maintenance. The risk of hardware being stolen has also been reduced and ensures the security of student and staff data since it will now be stored on a secure, remote server.

Since AVD delivers simplified management, multi-session Windows 10, optimizations for Office 365 ProPlus, and support for Remote Desktop Services (RDS) environments, UCONN is able to provide its students with a secure, collaborative, and remote platform to keep class in session no matter where they may be.

Maintain productivity levels.

Keep operating expenses low.

Keep people & data secure while working remotely.

BENEFITS

As a result of the Microsoft Azure Virtual Desktop configuration, UCONN has obtained advancements in security, reduced costs, and maintenance moving forward. The University now has a faster and more reliable threat detection and response solution with connected data sources into Azure and Azure Sentinel. Forsyte continues to work closely with UCONN to provide high quality and innovative opportunities with modern computing and protection of its people and data into the future.