Mobile Solutions
Transforming Education

Enhance learning flexibility, improve curriculum delivery, and extend the classroom experience

Education is about creating smarter communities. And today the sector itself needs to become smarter in order to meet a number of critical and growing requirements. Above all, the quality of education is under scrutiny in nations worldwide.

With quality now a critical differentiator for many establishments, education providers need to find new ways to improve student performance and research capabilities. At the same time, though, the sector is being tasked with increasing access and reducing costs.

Mobility, alongside trends such as ‘bring your own device’ (BYOD), can be used to achieve this difficult juggling act of improving quality and access without incurring excessive cost. And with the right partnerships, education providers can embrace mobility easily and securely.

Highlights

Mobile collaboration can have a powerful effect on educational institutions for faculty and student productivity, offering anytime, anywhere access to data, applications, and people.

And putting a mobile strategy in place can help your organization deliver better, more flexible learning to a wider range of students, more cost effectively.

IBM and Cisco can help with solutions that serve as a platform for wireless-assisted learning while also catering for significant educational concerns such as campus safety and security, student infotainment, and universal connectivity.
Dealing with the challenges facing education

Technology generally and mobile technologies in particular can be instrumental in delivering education in a smarter way, addressing issues such as:

- Gaps across learner segments, reduced educational opportunities, limited services, and difficulties in providing information to parents and the community.
- Problems with student performance, institution differentiation, and limited research capability and reputation.
- Inefficient administrative processes and needing to do more with less.

Taking advantage of new opportunities

With Cisco and IBM's enterprise mobility offerings for education you can capitalize on the opportunities presented by mobile technologies while addressing the challenges of an increasingly complex environment. We can help you:

- Improve flexibility in learning by supporting the high density of smartphones, tablets, and laptops being used by students, making sure that mobile devices maintain continuous Wi-Fi connectivity and have access to the bandwidth they need.
- Enhance e-learning capability by making your WLAN 'application aware', identifying voice, video, and data traffic appropriately and applying the right quality of service rules for different applications running on the same network, and device.
- Provide the same classroom experience to students wherever they are, through a cloud-based network architecture that extends across locations and centralizes mobility services such as security, device and user policy, and network management.

How you could benefit from mobility and BYOD today

Deliver wireless-assisted learning

Imagine a scenario where a teacher can provide a more dynamic, integrated learning approach by pointing students to digital media that can be accessed over student devices.

Going further, Wi-Fi can enable teaching to take place anywhere on campus in a more ad-hoc and flexible way, depending on course curricula. This can give students greater access to more interactive content, which can help improve learning.

Wireless-assisted learning can also help educationalists and students take advantage of tools such as social media, for a more collaborative learning experience.
Provide access anywhere

Give students more opportunities to learn and the chances are they can become more knowledgeable. And with mobility, you can let students learn anytime and anywhere, for example accessing online libraries and archives, digital content, and even recorded lectures.

Mobility can also give students direct access to teaching staff in a more flexible way, allowing either party to send queries or follow up remotely, which can be particularly valuable if students or faculty have to be off campus, for example during field trips.

Furthermore, access need not be restricted to teaching. With mobility, students can access self-service applications for processes such as paying bills, cutting costs for the institution.

Enhance safety and security

Campus safety has historically relied on closed-circuit TV, but this has drawbacks. The cameras are expensive and need to be cabled up, limiting where and how frequently they can be placed. The output needs to be monitored manually and can be difficult to review.

Using a Wi-Fi-enabled campus security system, meanwhile, allows you to take advantage of cheaper and more flexible digital technologies. Cameras can relay images over the wireless network and these can be analyzed using software, reducing costs.

In addition, for advanced monitoring purposes you can integrate motion sensors and asset trackers into the wireless network so that you are able to detect activity in sensitive areas and help reduce theft and vandalism.

Offer entertainment

No student dorm would be complete with television. But providing TV has traditionally meant wiring up each building... and standing by to fix the connection if something goes wrong.

With mobility, you can wire up each building with a Wi-Fi connection instead, and let students stream whatever shows they want, including campus-based media such as student radio and TV.

Students thus get a wider, more personalized choice of entertainment, and the service requires lower levels of administrative intervention.
The Cisco and IBM answer to education mobility

Today's faculty and students are increasingly on the move, using mobile devices throughout their working life. Mobile collaboration has a powerful effect on productivity, offering anytime, anywhere access to data, applications, and, most importantly, people.

Tablets, smartphones, and laptops have become so pervasive that individuals expect to be able to use them for their work and study as a matter of course.

The excitement around the latest devices and mobile applications can draw attention away from the true foundation of mobile collaboration: the network. It needs to be able to control access to maintain adequate security.

It must also have the capacity, reliability, and performance that mobile users require. End-user configuration and connection have to be simple and easy, regardless of device.

To successfully enable a mobile collaboration and BYOD strategy, one must first address these and other network-related issues.

IBM and Cisco can help with solutions that consider everything from network infrastructure and device management to the policies that govern access and security. We can even put together entire workspaces using applications and virtualization.

We deliver the components you need, starting with the network.

Cisco provides world-renowned network technology products, while IBM completes the picture with deep business and IT expertise, delivered through consulting, design, implementation, and run services, as well as a host of technology offerings.

Together, IBM and Cisco can help you develop the right business, network, and mobility strategy quickly and cost-effectively.

A portfolio to meet a myriad mobility needs

IBM MobileFirst

IBM MobileFirst is the most comprehensive mobile solution portfolio in the industry, offering an array of solutions that helps businesses connect, secure, manage and develop mobile networks, infrastructures and applications.

Mobile is rapidly becoming the primary means by which individuals interact with businesses, and through IBM MobileFirst IBM is providing companies with the essential tools to take advantage of new business opportunities being enabled by mobile.

Cisco BYOD Smart Solution

A modular framework for mobility environments, the Cisco BYOD Smart Solution lets you start with the modules you need for today’s business needs and then add new modules as your needs change.

The solution covers core infrastructure, policy management, secure mobility, workspace management, and productivity applications.

For more information

To learn more about how IBM and Cisco network expertise and solutions can help your enterprise support mobile collaboration by incorporating the use of employee-owned devices into its business strategy, contact your IBM or Cisco representative.

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