Secure Access To Victoria University From Anywhere

Victoria University (known as VU) is an Australian dual sector, public research university ranked in the top 2% of universities worldwide. It is Australia’s first university to introduce the Block Model of single-unit delivery - an innovative, award winning student focused approach to learning that is yielding VU exceptional results and successful graduates.

In Australia, foreign students contribute over 40% of the higher education sector’s A$22 billion-dollar annual revenue. When COVID-19 related travel restrictions were introduced in early 2020, thousands of international students were unable to return to university campuses across Australia including VU. Subsequent restrictions widened the impact to domestic students.

VU was well placed to respond having already established a technology roadmap to enable remote learning and work, complete with selected partners. It accelerated its technology roll out to allow students and staff to continue their studies and work remotely and securely. “Our focus is to ensure we give students the same level of experience they had on-campus,” says Zoran Sugarevski, VU’s Executive Director of ITS.

Business needs

- To support positive student and employee experience, VU had to accelerate its technology roll out to provide a secure platform for remote learning, with access to all of its on-campus services.
- Other business imperatives were to reduce running costs and improve the university’s security posture.

Impact

- With VMware working as its trusted partner, VU overcame significant time challenges. VMware Horizon® was deployed on-premise in just two weeks allowing VU’s IT team to securely deploy and run remote desktops and applications in the data centre, with the capability to eventually burst into Horizon Cloud on Microsoft Azure in keeping with VU’s digital transformation plan.
- The team deployed VMware Unified Access Gateway to act as a secure entry point from the public internet into VU’s internal environment, effectively providing an extra layer of security by shielding internal VU resources from unauthorised traffic.
- VU will benefit from reduced running costs across the university, and the partnership has improved overall security posture as VU continues to offer digital classes.
- VU also implemented VMware Workspace ONE® Access™ enabling BYOD users seamless and secure access to a catalogue of all applications via single sign-on authentication.
- The seamless, intuitive user experience means previous technology adoption barriers have been removed - a significant element of VU’s transformation agenda.
- VU now has the in-house capability to easily deploy Virtual Desktop Infrastructure solutions to staff and students, and to provide secure, digital workspace solutions that deliver a better student experience via it’s award winning Block Model.