VMWARE CONNECTOR FOR ELLUCIAN

AT A GLANCE
The VMware Connector for Ellucian quickly syncs a student’s digital backpack with a university’s student information system (SIS) so every student learning workspace is always up to date with the latest curriculum, applications, and resources required for their course load.

BENEFITS
The game-changing approach enables colleges and universities to:
• Dynamically and rapidly update a student’s personalized learning workspace to deliver all the applications and resources individual students, faculty, and staff members need on the devices they carry
• Reduce IT time spent on system administration
• Increase the time IT staff spends improving learning experiences

The Challenge
Evolving learning models are transforming higher education and nearly every academic institution is looking for ways to increase education accessibility, affordability, and quality. On a journey to further limitless learning, both IT and curriculum professionals in academic institutions worldwide have been challenged to quickly give students access to all of the course applications and information they need and keep those resources up to date as they add and drop classes and progress through their educational journey.

Many academic institutions across the globe are using an Ellucian Student Information System (SIS) to store all of their course and student information and leveraging Microsoft Active Directory (AD) for resource entitlements. The manual processes involved in keeping information between these two systems in sync and up to date are not scalable, may be prone to errors and are time consuming, preventing IT teams from playing a more active role in helping curriculum leaders better deliver on their institutional learning visions.
More recently, academic institutions have also been challenged to enable new digital learning environments that deliver both legacy and modern applications to any device type and to a more diverse population that includes a growing number of online learners - helping to overcome socio-economic barriers and provide digital equality for all students.

The Solution

The VMware Connector for Ellucian integrates VMware’s Secure Digital Backpack for Education—powered by VMware Workspace ONE™—and Ellucian’s widely-adopted SIS solutions, Banner® by Ellucian and Colleague® by Ellucian, simplifying and better securing higher education digital learning environments. The Connector makes digital learning environments more dynamic for students, faculty, and staff while reducing IT burdens by syncing Ellucian information, mapping it back to Microsoft Active Directory (AD) information, and keeping it in sync as enrollments in courses change. In short, as classes are added or dropped through the University SIS during a semester and from year to year, a student’s required set of applications is automatically kept up to date in their digital learning workspace. The integration provides maximum flexibility, allowing schools to support the widest range of applications—from virtualized to web-based to cloud-native to mobile-native apps—for the widest variety of student populations—those enrolled on-campus and online who need to work from anywhere, anytime, and on any device.

Infrastructure Components

The solution can be deployed across data center environments—elements may be deployed in on-premises infrastructure, in cloud hosted infrastructure, or in a hybrid environment. Components of the architecture include:

- Customer SIS
- Customer Active Directory
- VMware Connector for Ellucian, SQL DB
- Customer Linux host (virtual or physical)
- VMware Connector for Ellucian, Ellucian Sync App
- VMware Connector for Ellucian, AD sync App
- VMware Connector for Ellucian, Web App
FIND OUT MORE
For information or to purchase VMware products, call 877-4-VMWARE (outside North America, +1-650-427-5000); visit http://www.vmware.com/go/edu or search online for an authorized reseller. For detailed product specifications and system requirements, refer to the Ellucian Connector for VMware documentation.

How It Works
The Connector takes the Ellucian student ID and synchronizes it with a corresponding AD account (or creates one, if it doesn’t exist). It also takes the Ellucian course ID and creates an AD group based on that course. Because the Connector knows what courses a student is enrolled in, it ensures the students’ AD account is correctly mapped into the correct AD groups that correspond to the courses of enrollment. From there, IT administrators can entitle resources based on those AD groups and VMware Workspace ONE technologies—Identity Manager™, VMware Horizon®, VMware AirWatch® or any combination of them—and know it will be kept up to date with the correct users and groups because it is being synchronized from the SIS.

Benefits
This new VMware solution for higher education will help IT professionals automate the delivery of a consistent and personalized digital workspace to every student for anytime, anywhere, any device access throughout their entire time at school.

• Automate entitlements – VMware Connector for Ellucian is designed for IT administrators to easily map SIS courses to AD groups and keep them in sync as student enrollment changes—on a course, semester, or ad hoc basis, streamlining and improving an error-prone, time-consuming process.

• Deliver dynamic workspaces – Once IT provisions a secure digital workspace to a student, faculty, or staff, they can simply use the solution to dynamically and automatically grant entitlements, drastically simplifying the end user experience for students.

• Improve IT agility – Because IT spends less time managing entitlements, IT professionals can spend more time partnering with peers to further learning and success.

Availability
Estimated general availability is H1 2017.