CITY UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

LOCATION KOWLOON, HONG KONG | **STARTED USING CANVAS** 2015 | **NUMBER OF USERS** 30,000

Leveraging the cloud for anywhere, anytime learning

KOWLOON

THE CHALLENGE

In 2010, City University of Hong Kong (CityU) implemented a new strategic direction to leverage the cloud wherever possible. Its goals were to enable student-centred learning and to improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness. This shift required the university to consider alternatives to its existing on-premises learning management system (LMS), Blackboard.

"We wanted to adopt a cloud-first strategy for all new services going forward," says Andy Chun, Chief Information Officer for City University. "It was important to us that students would be able to collaborate easily and use a variety of devices in their learning."

THE DECISION

In 2011, CityU launched a mobile-learning initiative, which would be intrinsically linked to its cloud-first policy. The university began evaluating next-generation LMSs in 2013. Based on recommendations from other university CIOs, CityU migrated to Canvas in 2015.

KEY FINDINGS

More than 80% of CityU courses are now on Canvas

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TWO-THIRDS
of teachers are now using a flipped classroom concept

ONE-THIRD
of total Canvas logins are through smartphone and tablet apps

"Leveraging the cloud forms a major part of the strategic direction in IT at CityU. Canvas was the best possible way forward to allow our students to achieve mobility and collaborate with ease."

ANDY CHUN
CIO, City University of Hong Kong

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WHAT CITYU LIKES ABOUT CANVAS

EASE OF USE | MODERN INTERFACE | STUDENT COLLABORATION | MOBILE ACCESS | CLOUD HOSTING
EASE OF ADDING MULTIMEDIA | PERSONALISED LEARNING | PEDAGOGICAL FLEXIBILITY

EASE OF USE

"Eighty-eight percent of staff and two-thirds of students are satisfied with Canvas," says Chun. "We believe these figures will only improve over time as students and teachers become better acquainted with the software. Teachers have said they particularly enjoy the intuitive interface and easy-to-use tools."

MOBILE ACCESS

"CityU was one of the first universities in Hong Kong to offer a 100 percent cloud-based LMS," says Chun. "Canvas' technology enables a learning platform that can be accessed anywhere, anytime, and from any device." This has engaged the student body, with many students using mobile devices to access course materials and activities. One-third of total CityU logins to Canvas are through smartphone and tablet apps.

EASE OF ADDING MULTIMEDIA

Uploading multimedia has never been easier for students, with a wide variety of video and audio learning materials submitted for assignments each day. Analytics show that after the university implemented Canvas, the total number of lecture recordings uploaded per semester leapt from 442 to 3,760.

STUDENT-CENTRED LEARNING

"Teachers are encouraged to plan their lessons around concepts such as activity-based learning, blended learning, and the flipped classroom," says Chun. "Canvas meets our objectives by being a perfect enabler of remote learning, interactivity, and a system where the student has greater control over their learning." Two-thirds of CityU teachers are now using a flipped classroom concept.

MOVING FORWARD WITH CANVAS

The future looks bright for CityU. It plans to offer free MOOCs (massive open online courses) for students from around the world using the Canvas platform. Chun hopes this new initiative will encourage CityU students to explore other interests and strengthen the university's international profile as a world-class education provider.

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