

# UC DAVIS ADMINISTRATIVE COMPUTER STANDARDS

FOCUS ON EFFICIENCY

*Within UC Davis' Office of Strategic Solutions, the university implemented an IT program that standardized computer equipment campus-wide. This action is reducing cost – \$1 million has been saved as of spring 2018 – and improving delivery time while providing a quality product that meets the needs of users.*

UC Davis's history of decentralized IT programs across campus resulted in the use of about 200 different computer makes and models. Without the implementation of campus-wide administrative computer standards, departments were left on their own to make improvements, often leading to missed opportunities for savings on initial purchase price and ongoing support, slower time-to-resolution metrics, and increased exposure to cyber threats.

The university's UC Davis Administrative Computer Standards project tackled this wide-ranging problem, and established two goals:

- To create computing standards that would meet the needs of at least 80 percent of the administrative population
- To establish a coordinated, centralized procurement method. When combined, early projections anticipated an annual savings of \$400,000 to \$500,000 for the collective campus

The chancellor approved the initiative as part of a series of projects aimed at generating new funding under the university's Financial Sustainability Portfolio, and a steering committee of stakeholders was established for the standardization project. Through an iterative and collaborative process with the IT community, computing standards for PC laptops and desktops were agreed upon while the procurement team prepared the new e-commerce platform (AggieBuy).

With the standards and the procurement process in place, UC Davis negotiated deep discounts with Dell resulting in an average savings of 34 percent more than the previous contract.

The standardization program enables campus departments to save money on initial unit purchases and leverage the benefits that come with a more uniform computing environment, including the efficient deployment of system patches, which reduces the risk of cybersecurity threats.

## MILESTONES

Jan  
2016

- Project proposal is vetted by campus community via "campus showcase"

Feb  
2016

- Chancellor approves proposal

Mar  
2016

- Project team is formed

Mar  
2017

- IT community agrees on administrative computer standards

May  
2017

- Dell contract is revised to reflect deep discounts for standard models

June  
2017

- Campus departments begin buying under new pricing

June  
2018

- Standardization program achieves \$1 million in savings

## QUANTIFICATION AND RESULTS

The standardization program's savings surpassed initial estimates:

Projected annual savings for the campus-wide computer standardization program was \$640,000 (based on an average of 1,600 units purchased per year). This savings is \$140,000 to \$240,000 more than initially projected.

During the first month, June 2017, of the program, the campus saved approximately \$250,000.

Cumulative savings as of June 2018 is \$1 million.

Initial estimates were only based on 80 percent administrative adoption; additional savings are possible with an increase in adoption and by participation from faculty.

## OPPORTUNITIES AND SOLUTIONS

By driving toward a more uniform computing environment, IT managers can keep hot spares in inventory for replacement or for issue to a new employee, improving productivity.

- If a computer outside of the standards is needed, departments are still able to purchase the system they require.
- Partnerships with other universities and systems may be explored for larger potential discounts.

## IMPACT AND BENEFITS

- Lower cost to procure equipment
- Faster computer deployment to employees
- Reduced cybersecurity threat
- More predictable budgeting

## LESSONS LEARNED

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To help improve initial adoption, approach the issue of standardization from both the technology and the financial perspective: Work with the IT community to understand the needs of their customers, while working with the budget offices to encourage adoption rates to improve the bottom line.

## TEAM MEMBERS

**Tim Maguire**  
chief procurement officer

**Hampton Sublett**  
director of financial sustainability

**Mike Morgan**  
associate director of procurement

**Britany Duvanovich**  
Strategic Sourcing and IT  
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