

PPC heads to the cloud to continue education during Covid-19!

About Pensacola Christian College

Founded in 1974, Pensacola Christian College (PCC) is a thriving Christian liberal arts college with a beautiful campus located near northwest Florida's scenic beaches. Pensacola Christian offers a Christ-centered environment and challenging academic programs with a distinctively Christian foundation. The leadership team, faculty, and staff have one purpose—to develop students into Christian leaders who are knowledgeable, articulate, moral, dedicated to excellence, committed to serving Jesus Christ, and able to influence the world by applying biblical principles in their chosen field and daily life.

The Challenge

As the realities of students working from home hit due to COVID-19, PCC had to act quickly to enable approximately 500 lab computers running in an at home model. These computers provide students and faculty a mix of AutoCAD, MATLAB and suite of business applications that are part of curriculum activities. PCC faced the unthinkable – closing classrooms and ending their educational programs. With looming program closures and layoffs PCC needed a secure, easy to manage, and remote solution quickly.

Solution

In less than a week, the team of CloudHesive and PCC's internal IT team were able to deploy Amazon Workspaces to provide a remote training solution for students and faculty. These computers were provided with a managed services plan to assist PCC internal IT with management and monitoring of the AWS environment. The traditional enterprise data center is heading for the history books, overtaken by cloud computing, the internet of things and new requirements to get applications closer to the customer using them. In fact, Gartner Research expects 80 percent of enterprises will have shut down their traditional data centers by 2025, that's up from 10 percent today.

Technologies Leveraged

AWS: VPC, EC2, S3, Workspaces

Third party applications or solutions used

Trend Micro, Datadog, Sumologic, Alert Logic, VPN, Data Encryption



Benefits

The benefits from this project for PCC were numerous. CloudHesive was able to act quickly, successfully deploying a remote work environment. PCC and students were saved from potential downtime of key educational programs. CloudHesive also placed the environment in a much more robust architecture, increased the security controls of the environment, and positioned the environment under management by the CloudHesive Managed Services team. PCC's team has been very appreciative of the white glove service they received and continue to rely on CloudHesive through this critical and unprecedented event.