LAMBDA SOLUTIONS

EMPOWER TALENT

ROCHESTER COLLEGE REDUCES LMS COSTS THROUGH MOODLE MANAGED HOSTING

JULY 2014

AT-A-GLANCE

CUSTOMER'S BUSINESS:
Liberal Arts College

OPPORTUNITY: Rochester College needed a reliable managed hosting solution for their LMS

SOLUTION: Moodle hosting and support from Lambda Solutions

RESULTS: The college increased buy-in for online learning by demonstrating lower costs

ORGANIZATION

Rochester College is a liberal arts college located in Rochester Hills, Michigan. The college was founded in 1959 and maintains an enrollment of just over 1,000 students. The school primarily educates undergraduates (although, it offers an all-online Masters of Religious Education) and includes both residential and commuting student populations. The college also offers a degree completion program for adult students with a predominantly e-learning-based course load.

🎓 **1,000** Students

THE CHALLENGE

Rochester College faced conflicting challenges: departmental restructuring meant the growing catalog of online courses needed to rely on fewer dedicated technical staff, and the existing Blackboard learning management system (LMS) was proving too expensive to maintain and needed a lower-cost replacement.

"Blackboard is probably the most expensive thing out there, and our budget was shrinking. We decided to look into open source LMSs to save some money," says Donna Mosley, the College's Online Learning Technology Specialist. "We decided to go ahead with a Moodle LMS, but started out with a hosting company that was not an official Moodle Partner. Whenever we ran into problems, they had a real hard time correcting them." The college knew it needed to find a reliable new managed hosting company.

THE SOLUTION

The college's technology specialists researched several new Moodle hosting providers, but settled on Lambda Solutions because "… We were impressed with how open and friendly Lambda was, and their reputation and good standing as official Moodle Partners was important to us," recalls Mosley. Mosley moved quite a few courses over to the Lambda hosting system. "Bringing courses over to our Lambda-hosted Moodle LMS went very smoothly," said Mosley.

Before Lambda managed Rochester's hosting, the college suffered through issues with a sluggish LMS. Sometimes it was so unresponsive that students were not always able to log on. "Moving over to Lambda was just wonderful—students and faculty were saying 'Oh, Moodle is fixed! Thanks for whatever you did!' and we'd say 'New hosts, new hosts!'" said Mosley.

"I'm now a one-person department," said Mosley, "If I have any technical issues I can't handle on my own, I need someone to respond right away—and the Lambda Help Desk always does. We always get to the bottom of it."

Mosley takes advantage of the learning resources Lambda provides as well. "Lambda's regular webinars are great to pop into, once and a while, to learn about features we might not be using. And having the Moodle documents accessible from right inside the system is huge. It's a wonderful help— first place I send instructors who have a questions."

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DONNA MOSLEY
Online Learning Technology Specialist | Rochester College

RESULTS

Improved Online Learning Buy-in

"When we were still working with our previous Moodle hosts our students would say 'I want to drop this class', and 'I never want to take an online class again'," said Mosley. "We even had faculty saying don't ask me to teach online courses and that they were too much hassle. We really had to repair the reputation and expectation of what an e-learning experience could be. Now, thanks to our Lambda-hosted Moodle LMS, I'd say we have 80–85% buy-in for online courses. It's a huge improvement."

Open Source Cost Savings

"The bottom line is that we are spending less," said Mosley. "It's just way less expensive to have managed hosting with an open source product like Moodle than managed hosting with a proprietary system like Blackboard."

ABOUT LAMBDA SOLUTIONS

Exceptional Support has made Lambda Solutions a leader in Moodle Managed Hosting and Professional Services. We believe that support is a critical component to any successful implementation and use of any technology. Since 2002, we have helped many organizations deliver great eLearning experiences. We combine offerings in managed hosting, application support services, development and integration expertise, as well as training to customers in Education, Corporate Training, Healthcare and Government. Lambda Solutions is an official partner of Moodle, the world's leading Open Source Learning Management System.

Contact our team

We want to talk to you if you're looking for reliable Moodle or Totara hosting and support, or if you need customization and consulting for your existing system. Our solutions combine a choice of robust hosting platforms, seamless integration with your enterprise applications and friendly, easy to access support.

TOLL FREE	+1.877.700.1118
EMAIL	info@lambdasolutions.net
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