

SOLUTION BRIEF

# NAVICLOUD® DESKTOP-AS-A-SERVICE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION



## Scalable, Secure DaaS for Education

Virtual Desktop Infrastructures (VDIs) can be costly and difficult for higher education institutions to build and manage. With NaviCloud® Desktop-as-a-Service (DaaS), a cloud-based desktop virtualization service, institutions can focus on driving enrolment and let Navisite® provision and oversee VDI hardware and software. NaviCloud DaaS supports enhanced scalability and security, while working to reduce up-front capital expenditure (CapEx), relieve the burden on in-house IT teams and support bring your own device (BYOD) initiatives—all for a predictable monthly cost.

Students today expect round-the-clock access to IT resources and support, whether they're on or off campus and leveraging school-provisioned or personal devices. Moreover, as curricula continue to shift to support online and hybrid online/classroom learning, constant access to IT resources is increasingly crucial to student and faculty productivity.

Keeping pace with evolving technology and regulations, not to mention hiring an IT staff to manage and maintain on-site IT infrastructures, can be difficult to reconcile against providing a quality education at a competitive cost. Even institutions with larger IT budgets may find they simply do not have the expertise or resources to stand-up and operate an intricate IT infrastructure in a timely, efficient manner. Ultimately, to drive enrolment and student success, education institutions must innovate.

### Harnessing Virtual Desktops

Many institutions have explored implementing an on-site virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI). With VDI, multiple desktops can be hosted from a central server, enabling students, faculty and staff to access virtual desktops online. Key benefits of on-site VDI include:

- **Enables Thin Clients** - Institutions can reduce demands to update hardware, as machines often require less computing power to connect to virtual desktops.
- **Enhanced Security** - All data is stored remotely, not on the hard drives of end-user devices.
- **24-hour Access** - Users can access virtual desktops over the Internet anytime, instead of relying on access to computer labs.

Unfortunately, setting up an on-site VDI often requires significant up-front hardware and software investments. Moreover, configuration and management typically requires support staff with specialized knowledge.

### Exploring NaviCloud DaaS

NaviCloud Desktop-as-a-Service (DaaS), Navisite's cloud-based desktop virtualization service, builds upon the strengths of on-site VDI to offer education institutions the benefits of a familiar Windows desktop experience hosted from one of Navisite's secure, enterprise-class data centers. NaviCloud DaaS helps institutions leverage the power of virtual desktops for a lower total cost of ownership (TCO) as compared to establishing on-site VDI. NaviCloud DaaS supports:

- **Full-management** - Navisite provisions and oversees everything from physical data center space through to the VDI software.
- **Scalability** - Admins can enable or disable virtual desktops within minutes to meet variable demand more efficiently.
- **24x7 Support** - Navisite's experts are always available to provide assistance.
- **Reduced CapEx** - NaviCloud DaaS is a pay-as-you-go service, with no associated up-front hardware or software costs.

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### DaaS for Education



#### NaviCloud Desktops

NaviCloud Desktops provides users with a persistent desktop instance in the Cloud, so applications, files and settings remain available and tailored to the end-user between logins.

#### NaviCloud Sessions

NaviCloud Sessions focuses on delivering users access to distinct applications and resources without a persistent desktop environment, so users are not distracted by functionality beyond what they require. Sessions instances are refreshed to the default state between log-ins, removing changes made by previous users.

#### Supporting Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Initiatives

Every time a higher education institution hires new adjunct professors or enrolls new students, getting new users connected to IT resources is often one of the first priorities. Some institutions have switched to Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) programs, rather than

provisioning standardized laptops, for example. Supporting the various devices that students, faculty and staff wish to use can be time-consuming and difficult for IT staffs to handle.

NaviCloud DaaS is device agnostic, meaning users can connect to a virtual desktop from nearly any web-enabled device, including tablets, laptops, smartphones, thin clients and more. At the same time, thanks to centralized management, it's easier for an institution's IT admins to enforce compliance and security standards across all user devices remotely.

#### Addressing Seasonal and Variable Resource Demands

Typically, some of the busiest times for institutions include enrolment periods, mid-terms and finals. Planning hardware and staffing needs to accommodate peak periods can be costly and leave institutions with unused resources during slower periods. Conversely, under-provisioning can potentially lead to outages and delays during high demand periods, damaging productivity.

NaviCloud DaaS enables institutions to provision new virtual desktops or to disable existing desktops within minutes, to more closely align costs with demand. In this way, institutions can be better prepared for surges in demand, with decreased risk of overspending.

#### Augmenting Data Security

From professors misplacing laptops containing confidential student information to university medical staff losing tablets storing medical records, traditional devices can leave institutions open to security and compliance risks. NaviCloud DaaS clients have the peace-of-mind that data is stored remotely, in Navisite's secure, enterprise-class data centers—not on end-user devices. Additionally,

Navisite can work with intuitions to help them meet specific compliance and regulatory requirements on a case-by-case basis.

#### Leveraging a Hybrid Approach

NaviCloud DaaS does not have to be all or nothing. Higher education institutions with existing on-site VDIs can continue to leverage these solutions while adding new users via NaviCloud DaaS. Moreover, students, faculty and staff can continue to use physical computers and transition to virtual desktops over time as these assets age.

#### About Navisite

Navisite, Inc., a part of Spectrum Enterprise, is a leading international provider of enterprise-class, cloud-enabled hosting, managed applications and services. Navisite provides a full suite of reliable and scalable managed services, including Application, Cloud Desktop, Cloud Infrastructure and Hosting services for organizations looking to outsource IT infrastructures to help lower their capital and operational costs. Enterprise customers depend on Navisite for customized solutions, delivered through an international footprint of state-of-the-art data centers. For more information about Navisite's services, please visit [navisite.com](http://navisite.com) or [navisite.co.uk](http://navisite.co.uk).

#### Contact Navisite

For more on the full range of Navisite services, please visit [navisite.com](http://navisite.com) or email us at [webinfo@navisite.com](mailto:webinfo@navisite.com).