Delivering a flexible, scalable IT platform to reduce risk and improve performance

Robust, reliable infrastructure key to success in times of change.

After suffering multiple disruptions to its network linked to its ageing IT infrastructure, Flinders University sought help from YourDC to transform its digital set-up — both to reduce risk, and also to deliver the highest levels of performance, stability and reliability across its IT platform.

Outsourcing the University's IT infrastructure to YourDC enabled Flinders' IT team to refocus their attention on higher value, priority projects. YourDC's contribution earned the trust of the university by delivering critical IT and support services during times of uncertainty and rapid change within the academic sector.

About Flinders University

Founded in 1966, Flinders University is one of Australia's leading higher education establishments, with sites across Adelaide, regional South Australia, south west Victoria and the Northern Territory.

A large digital network forms the backbone of Flinders University's education and research programs, which support 30,000 educators, researchers, and students. With multiple locations, fast and reliable connectivity is vital to keeping people connected and communicating.

The challenge

Shortly after her appointment in 2017, Kerrie Campbell, Chief Information Officer at Flinders University began to address the risk and performance issues posed by Flinders University's existing onsite data centre set-up. Increasingly unstable, the ageing infrastructure — and its associated drain on human and financial resources — meant transitioning to a new solution was a priority project.

"Research and remote learning require huge amounts of computing power and storage that must be underpinned by fast and reliable connectivity", says Kerrie. "After considering local and interstate options, YourDC emerged as our preferred partner to deliver the redundancy, reliability, and performance we needed. This was vital as we sought to better support our data-hungry users and applications."

The Solution - Moving to YourDC

YourDC's solution encompassed five key priorities to ensure Flinders University's vision for high performance computing and a cloud-first strategy could be achieved robustly and reliably.

- Redundancy across two geographically diverse data centre locations
- 100% uptime for business continuity
- Fast and reliable connectivity across the University's 15 sites
- Custom designed inter-rack cabling to connect all equipment across data centres
- Dual-centre flexibility for zero downtime during maintenance and upgrades

Focused, efficient, effective

YourDC worked with Kerrie to engage with the University's IT team to alleviate any concerns about their future roles. "Securing our digital infrastructure to support our mission-critical systems and running all our applications through YourDC has enabled our in-house IT team to focus on our broader priorities", says Kerrie. "Further, our relationship with YourDC has eliminated significant energy bills, onsite security costs and round-the-clock staff rostering."

Responding to COVID-19

The scalability and flexibility of YourDC's solution proved invaluable when COVID-19 hit. "The capability deployed by YourDC delivered instant scalability as our in-house team led the university's journey to enable people to work and study from home", adds Kerrie. "Not having to worry about the hardware, and with our other challenges now resolved by YourDC's solution, was a relief. What's more, moving offsite and to the cloud meant we could extract maximum value from limited resources."

Summary

Well on its way to achieving its student-focused goals by 2025, Flinders' IT team is now able to deliver high value projects to support its mission to become a world-leading education and research University.

"YourDC provide redundancy and peace of mind we simply couldn't achieve on our own."

Kerrie Campbell, CIO, Flinders University

YourDC's solution for Flinders University — key benefits

Improved performance

- 100% uptime – always
- 24 x 7 monitoring for peace of mind
- University systems are continuously operational onsite and offsite

Cost and resource efficiencies

- Reduced total ownership cost
- Removed significant capital outlay
- Refocused IT resources to priority areas
- Lowered power consumption

Reduced risk

- Secure and remote access to ICT infrastructure
- Dual site diversity
- Multiple layers of redundancy

Removed distraction

- Enabled in-house IT team to focus on core priorities

COVID flexibility and scalability

- ICT capacity scalability
- Connect and coordinate all university locations
- Local support from YourDC experts
- Support for remote working

100% Uptime

Assured business continuity

Digital Ecosystem

South Australia's leading and most connected provider

Cloud Solutions

Flexible, scalable and cost effective

World class Connectivity

Built in and for South Australia

For more information on how YourDC can transform your ICT requirements, **visit YourDC.com.au or email info@yourdc.com.au**

YourDC — Your future