Intel Unite® Solution Empowers Students and Teachers to Collaborate Interactively

The solution promotes anywhere, anytime learning for student success, and is being rolled out district-wide in Newport, NH

The Intel Unite® solution helps the staff at SAU43 Newport School District unlock an interactive collaboration experience for staff and students from anywhere, making learning easier and staff meetings faster and more productive.

- Connect and share information regardless of device or operating system.

- Join students and teachers, together in a virtual classroom, keeping kids engaged whether they are on-site or at home.

- Save time and eliminate needless peripherals in classrooms and staff conference rooms.

Chad Howe, Technology Coordinator for SAU43 Newport School District, in New Hampshire says, "Last year we had a couple of students who had broken ankles and couldn't come into the classroom, and the teachers came to me and said, 'How can we keep these kids engaged?' Unfortunately, then we didn't have anything that could help with that. Now that we are deploying the Intel Unite® solution, we do."

The Newport School District comprises three schools with more than 1,000 students and 200 staff members. Initially, their managed services provider, CCI Managed Services, deployed a proof of concept to show them the potential for interactive learning, improved meetings, and increased productivity by using the Intel Unite solution.

According to Mike Demars, President and Owner of CCI, "We have seen other solutions that are less expensive, but the functionality is lacking, especially when you compare them to the features of the Intel Unite solution, which includes file sharing, sharing multiple displays at once, and Chromebook* connectivity. That's crucial for us and our clients in the education vertical."

Howe picks up the story: "The Intel Unite solution is a logical move for sharing information in a group format. We're looking at this as an alternative to smart boards, and ultimately we'll bring on touch systems for both students and teachers over time so that they can actually work right on-screen with a stylus, for instance, and share with the room via the Intel Unite solution."

Making learning interactive

Classrooms in the Newport School District aren't suffering from a lack of technology. They have interactive whiteboards, projectors located on carts in some classrooms and mounted on the ceiling in others, and lots of cables and dongles.

"I'm really excited to bring this into a classroom and have students connect and share without having to leave their seats. Right now, they have to get up, plug in to a projector, and it doesn't always work easily. The Intel Unite solution will simplify all this," says Howe.

CCI is working with the district to install Intel® Core™ vPro™ processor-based computers enabled with Intel Unite solution in classrooms. "We feel that the students and teachers would have a more interactive learning experience as it is so easy to connect and start sharing, allowing students to collaborate both with each other and the teachers, it's a win-win," says Howe.

Minimizing disruptions, regaining classroom time, and making learning easy

A big benefit of the Intel Unite solution, is that it can help reduce chaos in the classroom. "You have to consider that something as simple as changing cables in a classroom can cause a disruption. One student might be at the projector swapping a cable and the teacher is helping with that and then another student starts running around or wanders off because the teacher's focus is on the technology and not the class. But when you can just punch a button and share screens, there's no disruption and the teaching is seamless," says Howe.

Demaris from CCI says that they have deployed a SQL server and will manage the Intel Unite solution in the Enterprise version, enabling the IT team to set a six-digit PIN to securely access a meeting or collaboration session. "By taking advantage of the central PIN management in the Intel Unite solution enterprise version, CCI has the ability to assign and revoke PINs easily and centrally. This means that we can navigate the ever-changing world of staff and students with confidence."

Building in more collaboration

Howe is excited about the opportunities for interactive learning and collaboration. "I can definitely imagine students or staff calling in and presenting information, sharing, and collaborating between schools which are all on the same network. The Intel Unite solution allows us to get staff and students who are off premise to learn and interact in a meaningful way. In the future, we'll work with with CCI to help implement collaboration between schools in different towns, as well.

"This is an alternative to smart boards, which are only as smart as a user is able to make them. A smart board might have different capabilities, but there are more moving parts, they break, and so people stop using the smart boards. When you give people a better tool, they love it. And once you are connected to the Intel Unite solution, it can replace a traditional smart board and away you go."

Staff meetings are productive and more collaborative

Now staff meetings are much more collaborative with the Intel Unite solution due to the elimination of excessive peripherals and cables.

Howe says, "Meetings are now more interactive and we can quickly move between agenda items such as budgets, safety, and curriculum without having to stand up and take a five-minute break while someone hooks up their laptop."

Howe continues, "For me, and the district and teachers that I work with, the value of the Intel Unite solution is not about the time savings we garner, but rather about how easy it is to use. If it's difficult to use, staff won't use it. The staff members I've shown the Intel Unite solution to love it and intuitively understand how to use it. And once they use it, they can teach other teachers and their students."

For more information

To learn more about the benefits of the Intel Unite® solution, visit intel.com/unite

For more information on SAU43 Newport School District, visit www.sau43.org

For more information on CCI Managed Services, visit www.ccimanaged.com

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