

TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY ACCELERATES DIGITAL LEARNING FOR STUDENTS AND FACULTY WITH COMCAST BUSINESS



Ethernet Services Support Online Learning Initiatives, Enable Better Communication and Enhance Network Access and Security

DIVERSE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING HELPS STUDENTS PURSUE THEIR DREAMS

Texas Southern University (TSU) was founded in 1927 in Houston. Situated on 150 acres of land, it is one of the largest historically black colleges in the nation. The university is home to more than 9,000 students and 1,400 full-time and adjunct faculty members. It has 11 colleges and schools and offers more than 100 undergraduate and graduate programs, as well as 80-plus student organizations.

“We are a student-centered institution and our commitment is to provide our students with the resources they need to flourish and become lifelong learners, engaged citizens and creative leaders in their communities,” said Dr. Austin Lane, president of Texas Southern University.

BANDWIDTH IMPEDES ADOPTION OF TECHNOLOGY-BASED EDUCATION INITIATIVES

On a typical day, TSU’s 9,000 students each bring three to four connected devices to campus. They expect service to support not only these devices, but other technologies that contribute to their educational experience, like access to online learning resources and university applications. Both students and staff use the Internet and WiFi for everything that they do, from research and submitting assignments to registering for classes, communicating with family or streaming music and videos.

“We need to be able to deliver great services to our students to empower them to learn and grow through the use of technology, which is so important in the world today. But without sufficient capacity, we can’t meet these needs,” added Dr. Lane.

TSU had a 1 Gigabit per second (Gbps) Internet connection to support the connectivity requirements of students and staff, however the university needed more.

COMCAST BUSINESS ETHERNET DEDICATED INTERNET IMPROVES TSU NETWORK ACCESS

After researching numerous service providers, TSU chose Comcast Business to provide its network services to meet the university’s ever-growing bandwidth needs. Comcast Business deployed a 10 Gbps Ethernet Dedicated Internet (EDI) line to service 40 buildings on the 150-acre campus, including residential dorms and classroom facilities.

SITUATION

- University located in the heart of Houston
- Founded in 1927
- 9,000 students
- 1,400 faculty members

CHALLENGE

- Overburdened network unable to keep pace with connectivity needs of students and faculty
- Unable to roll out new digital learning initiatives
- Students expect better network access and security

SOLUTION

- Comcast Business Ethernet Dedicated Internet

RESULTS

- 10 Gbps of capacity ensures seamless connectivity for students and staff campus-wide
- Able to implement new digital learning initiatives

With up to 10x as much bandwidth, TSU now has more than enough capacity to support the amount of connected devices on campus – even as the student population grows – and improve access to the university’s network for students and faculty members. It also has sufficient capacity to provide the backbone for a new campus-wide WiFi network and residential WiFi services. Students now have a seamless experience when using the Internet to accomplish daily tasks, like accessing digital coursework, researching homework assignments, communicating with family and friends and streaming music or video.

“Now that we are using Comcast Business services, we can provide as much bandwidth to one building as we had on the entire campus previously. The vast improvements to our network has allowed us to focus on coming up with better opportunities for students to learn through technology,” remarked Dr. Lane.

Additionally, TSU is now able to live stream video and audio to provide off-campus or out-of-state students an opportunity to learn via online classes. Also, students can now reliably access a cloud-based, third-party mobile application that allows them to report on and monitor for campus issues.

“We know that with Comcast Business we have a reliable service, which gives us tremendous peace of mind and the opportunity to capitalize on technology-based educational programs that benefit our university and our students,” commented Dr. Lane.

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