Higher Education and Technology

This edition of Aoibri Insights is dedicated to our friends in higher education.

Infrastructure, Security, Accessibility and Mobility.

CIO's at Higher Education institutions are being put under the spotlight, their jobs are evolving, and technology is evolving as well. The most important factors in education technology today are infrastructure, security, accessibility, and mobility. While the push for offering online classes and the use of flipped classrooms is emerging, the appropriate supporting infrastructure is essential. The role of the CIO is now to support teaching and learning within their respective institution by ensuring all online tools run soundly. Add to that, the worry of whether their current systems can support the changing education styles that are leaving many networks in at risk of being insufficient. As education evolves, the supporting technology needs to evolve with it, but without CIO's giving up control, security, and the ability for institutions to harmonize and run efficiently.

These challenges beg for DevOps strategies to secure the individual pieces and insulate these programs and applications from each other, ensuring the mission critical functionality is always available.

SharePoint too meets many of these high demands and can leverage the users and security roles already in place, while extending functionality and access to mission critical assets. SharePointcan even enable the staff and faculty users to "DIY" sites and groups without putting the rest of the programs at risk.

If your IT department is facing these ever changing challenges and needs to get the upper hand, having a DevOps conversation with Aoibri can help uncover the ways to systemize the introduction of new applications and limit the liabilities of system and network failures.
Together we can build better ways to keep your organization up and running and secure even increase your competitive advantage.

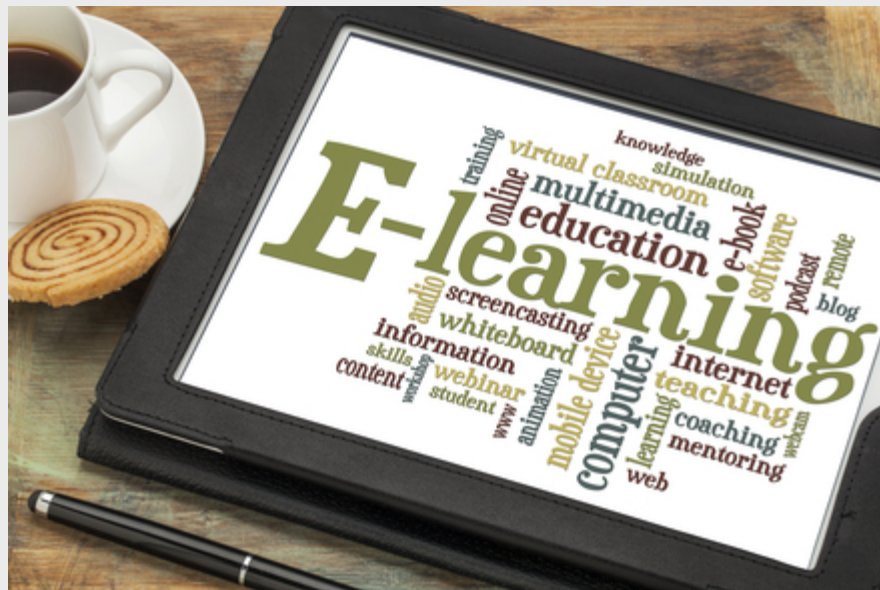INFO GRAPH on the right: What's keeping higher education CIOs up at night

Socialize

Most people have at least one form of social media account, and many have one on virtually every major social media network. These sites allow for users to make connections with like-minded people, as well as people in corresponding fields. Taking this into your institution to use as a learning device is easy with the use of SharePoint. Sharepoint allows you to directly connect to these networks, as well as connecting you internally through their enterprise social networks, native SharePoint social and Yammer, which will be available on its 2016 version. Promoting communication, collaboration and the sharing of ideas by using these tools in your school will help advance your staff, faculty administration and students, fostering a successful learning environment. Here is how one school used SharePoint to improve not only the internal business processes but it's marketing and brand.

Remember When Schools Chose the Student?

Through the use of technology, education has transformed from a scarce resource to becoming readily available to almost everyone, whether it's through a university or college's campus or an online class. Education is evolving in many ways, from directly face-to-face, to a combination of in person learning and the usage of video lectures. However, now that technology has developed into significant feature of education, those looking to attend schools are doing more than just visiting the campus. They go through all the offerings a college has, meaning prospective students are now engaging more with institutions' online resources. What schools need, is to demonstrate to potential applicants that they are the best fit for them by offering an intuitive site that provides them an exceptional user experience, to establish a positive image in their minds before they even step foot on campus. First impressions matter, no one wants to go on a site and then struggle to find the information they need. Implementing an intuitive

user friendly network is the first step to improving students Higher Education experience.

As you may have heard the latest version of SharePoint is on its way, with the projected release to be early 2016. Why is this exciting, and a great opportunity for everyone? For starters, SharePoint offers a unique platform that provides users the ability to share documents and files, informative newsfeeds, encourage discussion throughout the organizations, manage tasks and contacts, and have intuitive search engines, which is crucial in higher education institutions. All these needs demand a lot from technology and must be available in a secure, intuitive and mobile network. Customizable security setting enables administration to control permission settings, which regulates who can view the information and who cannot. Focusing on content and task management, collaboration, personal insights, enhanced searching and enterprise social networking makes SharePoint ideal for every organization. The basic needs for every successful university and college are directly associated to their capability to communicate, manage documents and tasks, and share information securely. All of these basic needs should be a part of your platofrm, and if any of these aren't being met, you should consider implementing one that will get you there, that platform is SharePoint 2016.

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[Tech in Higher Ed]