

Westmont College Graduates to Egnyte's Hybrid File-Sharing Architecture

With a great partner like Egnyte, we spend less time keeping baseline services functioning at enterprise levels and more time working on the next strategic initiative that can move our college forward.

—Reed A. Sheard | CIO, Westmont College

Founded in 1937 as a small liberal arts college emphasizing the highest standards for academic rigor, Westmont has gained national recognition for its leadership training, academic quality, and a strong emphasis on spiritual, intellectual, leadership development and personal growth.

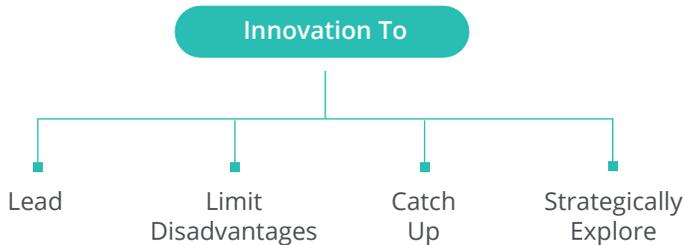
Envisioning Excellence Through Innovation

To retain its competitive edge, Westmont focused on making the latest technology available to its students and faculty. For example, Westmont embraced the cloud services model starting in 2009 and the college began migrating applications to the cloud. To date, Westmont has implemented nearly 20 cloud projects including email, calendar, contact management and smartphone syncing, as well as non-typical services such as SPAM filtering, wireless management, fundraising and admissions databases.



Reduction in costs from pure on-premise storage, tape back-up, and VPN

The Westmont IT department categorizes the varying degrees to which the college applies innovation to its technology operations as a continuum. Using this principle, Westmont set out to tackle its most difficult technology challenges, which included managing costs and complexity of its hyper-growth storage and enterprise file environments.



Challenge: This Box Has Walls

An important goal of Westmont’s cloud initiatives was replacing its legacy storage environment to provide more capacity while lowering the support requirements for the IT department. Other success criteria Westmont established for the project were: performance, reliability, integration with Microsoft Office applications, easy-to-use file version control, and support for Apple Macintosh clients. Westmont followed its standard evaluation process and ultimately settled on a cloud solution from Box that it believed would best align with college’s cloud-first strategy.

This decision quickly introduced a number of challenges. The college had decades of data that needed to be transferred and Box struggled to migrate the over 3 million files and terabytes of data from the existing storage area network. Further, the lack

“The new normal is ‘I need it now’, for less money and on a device of my choosing, a tall order for any IT department. At Westmont we went about the work of learning to innovate our way to new categories of how vital enterprise services were delivered.

—Reed A. Sheard | CIO, Westmont College

COMPANY

- Founded in 1937 and accredited in 1958
- Enrollment of 1313 students from 39 states and 17 countries
- 96 fulltime faculty and total staff of 306 with average class size of 18
- Liberal arts focus with emphasis on academic rigor
- Listed in the US News & World Report “Top 100 Liberal Arts Colleges”

LOCATION

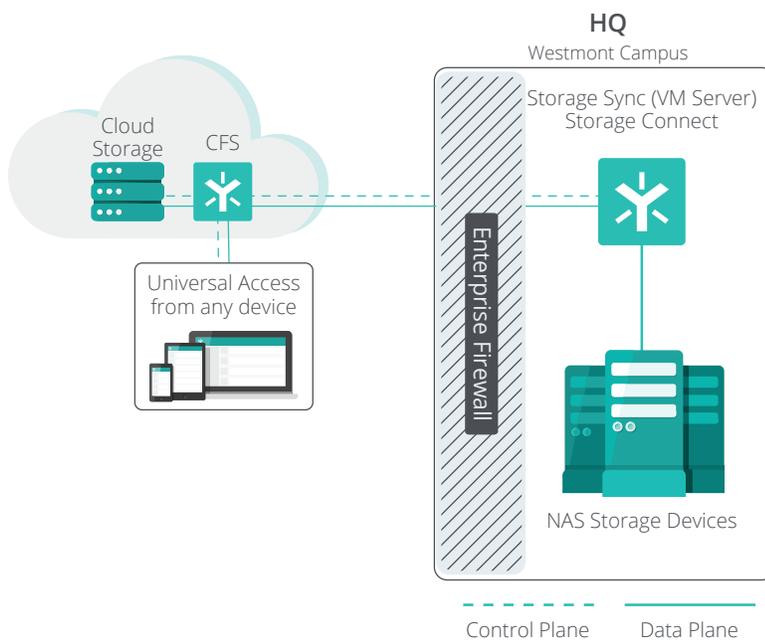
- Santa Barbara, CA

INDUSTRY

- Higher Education



of an integrated version-control feature impacted Westmont's daily workflow that relies heavily on the ability to use Excel. This led to Westmont staff and faculty consistently struggling with high-use financial and student information spreadsheets, especially when it came to editing and saving files. Any change to a file required syncing the entire file every time, which altered the staff's traditional processes of frequently saving changes. Additionally, users frequently experienced system freezes when they attempted high-access rates and were often greeted with a "too much activity" or "come back in 60 seconds" messages. Many users consequently became very frustrated and some even reverted to sending files via email in order to collaborate.



SOLUTION

- Nimble Storage
- Egnyte Hybrid Deployment
- Egnyte Professional Services

CHALLENGES

- Reduce and eliminate the costs associated with pure on-premise storage, tape back-up, and VPN
- Overcome the deployment and operational limitations of Box, a cloud-only solution
- Migrate millions of legacy files to the cloud while maintaining file and data integrity

Our experience with Egnyte has been rock solid. It works, it's fast and it extended the value of cloud services at our college. With great partners like Egnyte we spend less time keeping baseline services functioning at enterprise levels and more time working on the next strategic initiative that can move our college forward.

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Another challenge for the cloud-only approach was the available storage capacity and file management restrictions. For example, many Westmont users quickly reached Box's hard limit on the number of files that could exist in a single folder, which impacted their workflow. The ability to maintain the college's existing file and folder integrity was essential to how the college organized and structured its data, highlighting an flaw inherent in the cloud-only solution.

Customization and Hybrid Deployment are Key

The solution for Westmont was to deploy a more flexible enterprise storage and file-sharing model that addressed the college's must-have requirements for the transfer of legacy data, consistent remote access to files, high-performance file access for collaboration, and a simple version-control feature that aligned to existing data-management processes. For this Westmont partnered with Egnyte to build a custom solution that migrated from a consumer cloud-only to more flexible enterprise-grade hybrid architecture. A key step in this migration was Westmont selecting a cost-effective local storage hardware to enhance capacity and performance. The Egnyte professional services team then stepped in and helped implement the entire solution.

To integrate and manage data and files from its on-premises managed SAN and cloud storage, Westmont used Egnyte Storage Sync. This solution enabled Westmont to store, share and access files from anywhere with any device by combining the access of the cloud with the speed of local storage. This also helped reduce and/or eliminate costs of on-premises storage,

“Once we began to go with Egnyte, it was immediately evident that things were going to be different in a good way.

—Kevin Hess | Senior Director, IT



BENEFITS

- Sensible, easy-to-use file versioning control for staff
- Consistent user interface and file accessibility in or out of the office
- Enhanced storage capacity and file-access performance
- Simplified legacy data migration with file and data structures in tact
- Powerful user provisioning and access control capabilities

tape backup, and VPN expenses, as well as IT staff time to manage these resources. Egnyte's ability to appear as a mapped drive was another important feature, giving Westmont staff a familiar user interface and reliable synchronization of files when they were in the office or on the road. Further, the flexibility to choose specific files to bring down to their computers proved particularly useful to remote-access employees.

The Egnyte hybrid solution eliminated Westmont's version-control challenges completely. Now as users access or edit their files, a new version is created allowing employees to track when changes occurred and who initiated them. Users could also select among the different versions of the file they wanted to access. The Egnyte detailed version-control system was essential in helping Westmont smoothly migrate the large number of files and data in its legacy data storage.

The ability for Egnyte to seamlessly integrate into Westmont's existing directory of faculty and staff was another major benefit of this solution. Egnyte's flexible deployment model enabled Westmont to easily integrate their existing LDAP, which provided the Westmont IT team a powerful set of new capabilities including provisioning of users and groups, setting notifications, access controls, and running audit reports.



EGNYTE

In a content critical age, Egnyte fuels business growth by enabling content-rich business processes, while also providing organizations with visibility and control over their content assets. Egnyte's cloud-native content services platform leverages the industry's leading content intelligence engine to deliver a simple, secure, and vendor-neutral foundation for managing enterprise content across business applications and storage repositories. More than 16,000 companies trust Egnyte to enhance employee productivity, automate data management, and reduce file-sharing cost and complexity. Investors include Google Ventures, Kleiner Perkins, Caufield & Byers, and Goldman Sachs. For more information, visit www.egnyte.com