



case study

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Avocor and Generation Digital helps The Guildhall School puts teachers and students at the centre of a Cloud Collaboration & learning platform

Summary

The Guildhall School of Music & Drama, is a world class Higher Education Institution which offers aspiring musicians, actors, stage managers and theatre technicians a creative and stimulating environment in which to develop as artists and professionals. Widely considered a bastion of creative and professional practice, the Guildhall School actively promotes innovation, experiment and research.

The School recently completed a £90M project to expand its facilities, providing state-of-the-art performance and teaching spaces including: a 608-seat Concert Hall, a 223-seat Theatre, a Studio Theatre, three major rehearsal rooms, a TV studio suite and numerous teaching and meeting rooms and conferencing facilities to attract the very best teaching faculty and student community. One of the challenges faced by the deployment team at the school centered around how to create cloud-based, collaborative environments that enhanced teaching and learning.

To help them address this challenge, the School engaged technology consultants, Generation Digital, to provide programme management and governance to help the School make the right investments based on best of breed technology and move the programme forward. Leading a joint team with the School, Generation Digital provided the programme management, design, implementation,

systems integration, training and change management expertise needed to support and deliver the new technology within challenging timeframes.

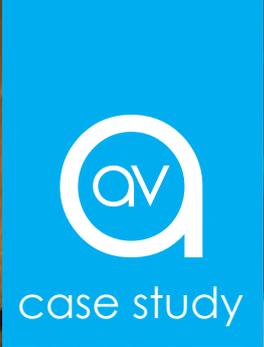
There were several key project success criteria, specifically:

- Create new revenue streams for the School by building an online learning platform meeting the increased demand from international students
- Enhance meeting and teaching spaces with the best collaborations tools in the market
- Build a solution that both teachers and students will find easy and enjoyable to use
- Limit the need for on-going capital hardware expenditure by facilitating cloud based storage.

The challenge

Guildhall School's Head of IT, Richard Antonel, was charged with specifying IT facilities and infrastructure that could provide the highest possible levels of performance and future proofing. He explains, “The scope (of the project) was to install the highest standard of teaching and learning equipment available at the time.

The goal was to put students and teachers at the heart of the technology strategy. The schools wanted to provide more students with internet-enabled learning systems, so they could learn anytime, anywhere. Since the School serves a wide range of students and



teachers around the globe, the School needed an affordable, flexible solution that would improve the learning experience for every student and teacher within every department. These new digital/cloud systems need human focused user experience allowing true global cloud collaboration without the burden of learning new and complex systems. Also the wanted to increase revenue by offering on-line courses or mixed with physical and virtual content courses."

Solution Overview:

To help make the right technology investments and ensure the project success, the Guildhall School engaged Generation Digital to define the strategy and consult on the best technology solution to meet the requirements and tight timescales for deployment and gaining a quick return on investment.

The central part of the solution was interactive, multi-touch 4K display screens deployed from Avocor, ranging from 65" through to 84". One of the core principles of the Avocor solution is that it is an open platform, this enabled Generation Digital to build a bespoke solution that met the needs to the School. Powered by Windows 10, the Avocor displays were perfect for the cloud based elements of the project, enabling users to access collaboration packages such as Microsoft Office 365 / Skype for Business, Skype, Abode Connect and Google Hangouts straight from the display. The Windows 10 operating system also ensured that users were presented with a familiar interface rather than propriety software platforms that required extensive adoption training. The wealth of connectivity allows for video conferencing cameras to be added to the solution whilst cloud based web conferencing software enables immersive meeting experiences, virtual online course delivery and large scale webinars, all providing a transformation learning environment to deliver world class digital collaboration for use with business and education.

About Avocor

Avocor creates, develops and manufactures market-leading touch technology hardware, software and accessories designed to enhance the meeting and learning space. With offices in Surrey & London, England as well as Oregon, US, we focus on delivering solutions on a global scale that provide an unrivalled experience for our customers through an extensive and experienced partner network.

About Generation Digital

Generation Digital partner with people and organisations from both the commercial and public sectors that want to take advantage of digital technology. With a passion for digital transformation, we love to solve complex problems and can innovate disruptively to help companies succeed. We deliver real value using the world's best technology and platforms that creates a significant competitive advantage.

