WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY MODERNISES LEARNING WITH RED HAT JBOSS FUSE
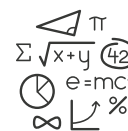
WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

SOFTWARE AND SERVICES

Red Hat® JBoss® Fuse

Red Hat Enterprise Linux®

Red Hat Consulting

Western Sydney University sought to adapt its IT environment to meet increasing demand for integrated services and accommodate the latest online learning practices. To accomplish this goal, the university needed to integrate multiple IT systems and simplify point-to-point integration across environments. With help from Red Hat Consulting, the university deployed Red Hat JBoss Fuse to unify and simplify integration and provide the flexibility to migrate to cloud-based, externally hosted systems. With Red Hat JBoss Fuse and Red Hat Enterprise Linux, the university replaced its existing infrastructure with a more agile, lightweight solution that could meet students' demands and support digital transformation.

Penrith, Australia ●

HEADQUARTERS

EDUCATION

3,000 EMPLOYEES

BENEFITS

- Improved flexibility to meet increasing data and system integration needs

- Eliminated data transfer lag with real-time integration between multiple systems, reducing completion time for some processes by hours

- Gained a single solution for integration projects, saving money and weeks of project time

- Simplified application architecture for easier management and faster configuration

"*There's an expectation that Western Sydney, as a leading university, must have a contemporary IT environment. The capabilities of Red Hat JBoss Fuse help us make sure we can meet that expectation.*"

KERRY HOLLING
CHIEF INFORMATION AND DIGITAL OFFICER, WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

facebook.com/redhatinc
@redhatnews
linkedin.com/company/red-hat

redhat.com

KEEPING UP WITH DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Digital technology is increasingly transforming higher education. To keep up with shifting technology and industry trends, Western Sydney University began a transformative rebranding process in early 2015, beginning with publishing a strategic plan for 2015 to 2020, called Securing Success.

As part of this strategic plan, the university is investing in IT and communications technology, with a focus on IT infrastructure and services, as well as improving physical infrastructure. Western Sydney plans to create personalised, collaborative learning environments that provide students with access to "authentic, engaging, and diverse learning experiences."[1] These changes will ensure learning and teaching spaces are adaptive and meet student expectations.

To meet this goal, Western Sydney University needed to adapt its technology to accommodate the latest online learning practices. In addition, the university needed to shift to cloud-based or externally hosted systems to meet increased demand for integrated services and replace its existing infrastructure with a more agile, lightweight solution.

However, achieving these technological shifts required simplifying many different point-to-point integrations that had accumulated across the university's technology environment. Western Sydney sought a unified integration solution that would flexibly integrate disparate systems and platforms, meeting the increased student and staff need for mobility – for example, a growing number of off-campus students.

"The system looked like a big mess of noodles. We needed to get away from that point-to-point integration, especially as we begin to open the APIs [application programming interfaces] for things like mobile apps to be used by students," said Kerry Holling, chief information and digital officer at Western Sydney University.

CHOOSING A MODERN INTEGRATION SOLUTION

After a comprehensive review process – and previous experience running Red Hat Enterprise Linux – Western Sydney chose to implement a new solution based on Red Hat technologies. Red Hat Consulting led and delivered a proof of concept featuring Red Hat JBoss Fuse, an integration platform that offers lightweight flexibility to meet the university's emerging data and systems integration needs. This proof of concept involved re-implementing some existing integrations using the new tools and capabilities of Red Hat JBoss Fuse.

Once this process was completed, the university moved some platforms running Red Hat JBoss Fuse on Red Hat Enterprise Linux into production.

"There's an expectation that Western Sydney, as a leading university, must have a contemporary IT environment. The capabilities of Red Hat JBoss Fuse help us make sure we can meet that expectation," said Holling.

---

1 *"Securing Success: 2015-2020 Strategic Plan." Western Sydney University, February 2015.*

FASTER, EASIER COMMUNICATION

FLEXIBLE, ITERATIVE IMPLEMENTATION

With Red Hat JBoss Fuse, Western Sydney can complete small implementations that can eventually encompass larger systems. The new solution can be used in various scenarios and can be adapted to meet the size and configuration needs of the university's integration projects.

For example, Western Sydney has implemented a new payment gateway that takes advantage of these new integration capabilities and eliminated the need for six previously required virtual servers. As a result of this project, the university has received positive feedback and established a standard for new implementations via web services. In addition, many of the 15 integrations produced will be reused for new projects, helping the university save time and money.

SIMPLIFIED MANAGEMENT

Previously, the university had implemented standalone, ad hoc solutions for individual integrations. The new solution based on Red Hat JBoss Fuse unifies and simplifies the integration environment. Integrations created using the new platform can be reused, saving weeks of IT effort for each new project.
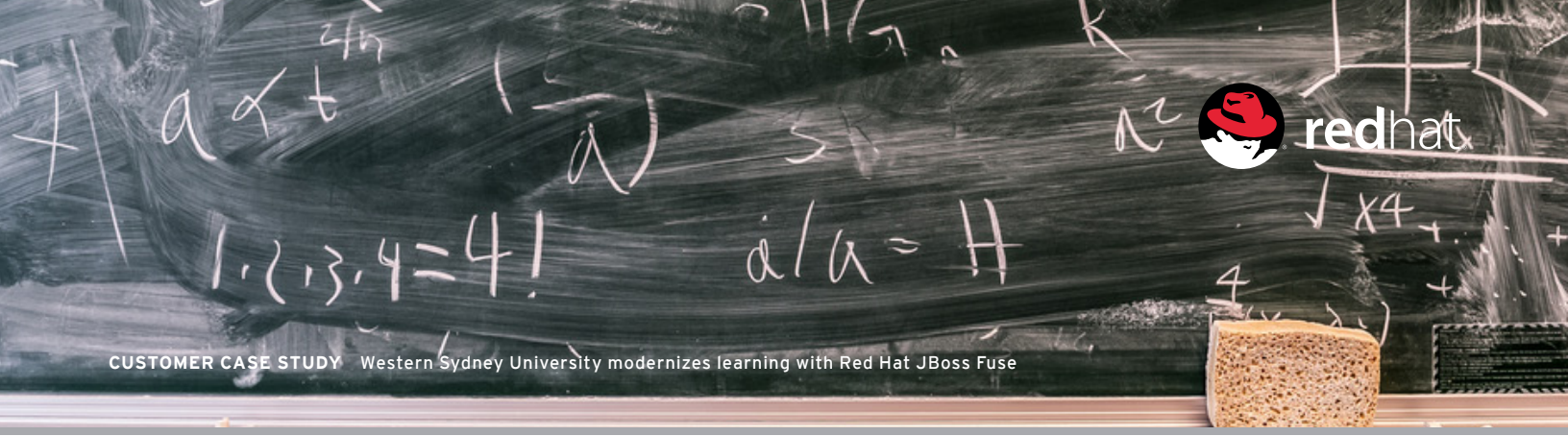
REAL-TIME INTEGRATION

With the university's previous solution, integration between disparate platforms meant information was transferred between systems in batches, often resulting in lag. The new integrations based on Red Hat JBoss Fuse result in active, continuous transfer of information across systems. Western Sydney can now build dynamic services and applications that are up-to-date at all times, delivering information from internal systems to end users faster. "The university's reputation depends on student experience, and this solution lets us provide the real-time information needed to make that experience as positive and streamlined as possible," said Holling.

BUILDING A MORE CONNECTED FUTURE

After completing several smaller integrations to define the processes needed for larger integrations, the university has begun planning for more complex projects, such as replacement of its student management system.

"In the past, the university was limited in what we could achieve with technology systems, given the complexity and difficulty of integration. With the Red Hat solution, we can meet the needs of different use cases across the university. This capability will free us up to innovate ways to dramatically improve the student experience," said Holling.

ABOUT WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

Western Sydney University is a large, student-centred, research-led metropolitan university in Western Sydney – one of the most economically significant and fastest growing regions in Australia.

Established in 1989, the university can trace its history back to 1891 when its oldest predecessor, the Hawkesbury Agricultural College, enrolled its first students. Today the university has over 44,000 students and more than 3,000 staff. Its diverse local and international population creates a vibrant, intellectual environment and an enriching student experience.

The university is now ranked in the top three percent of universities worldwide according to the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings, and is also ranked in the top 100 universities in the world under 50 years of age. This recognition underscores the significant work being undertaken to broaden the university's international horizons.

ABOUT RED HAT

Red Hat is the world's leading provider of open source software solutions, using a community-powered approach to provide reliable and high-performing cloud, Linux, middleware, storage, and virtualization technologies. Red Hat also offers award-winning support, training, and consulting services. As a connective hub in a global network of enterprises, partners, and open source communities, Red Hat helps create relevant, innovative technologies that liberate resources for growth and prepare customers for the future of IT.

facebook.com/redhatinc
@redhatnews
linkedin.com/company/red-hat

NORTH AMERICA	EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST, AND AFRICA	ASIA PACIFIC	LATIN AMERICA
1 888 REDHAT1	00800 7334 2835 europe@redhat.com	+65 6490 4200 apac@redhat.com	+54 11 4329 7300 info-latam@redhat.com

redhat.com
INC0386265_1216